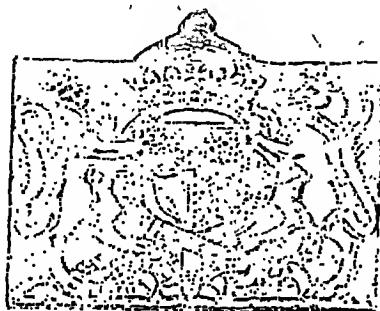


GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD

Questions and Answers in the Central Legislature during the Budget Session, 1945



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1583	Ditto	Examination of the condiment producing factories and precaution taken to prevent adulteration.	4.4.45	Py-605(312)	115
1584	Ditto	Number and names of ghee purchasing firms and precaution taken to prevent adulteration.	4.4.45	Py-605(313)	116
1585	Ditto	Number and sites of ghee heating centres in India and continuity of the factories.	4.4.45	Py-605(314)	117
1595	Sri K. B. Jina- raja Hegde.	Requisition of foodgrains by cultivators in some districts of , Madras and Bombay.	4.4.45	Py-605(323)	117
1598	Mr. Anaga Mohan Dam.	Quantities of chillies produced in this country and exported outside.	4.4.45	Py-605(324)	118
1600	Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani.	Appointment of female sub-ordinates in the Food Department.	4.4.45	Py-605(325)	120
1621	Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall.	Function of co-operative stores in Delhi about the distribution of foodgrains, fuel, kerosene oil, etc.	4.4.45	Py-605(328)	121

Q. No.	Asked by	Subject	Answered on	File No.	Page No.
1696	Mr. A. Satyana-rayana Moorthy.	Import of cocoa beans from Ceylon and their control by the "combined Food Board," England.	9-4-45	Py-605(334)	121
1712	Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani.	Reference of Starred Question No. 1349, dated 26th March 1945 regarding Muslim salt dealers in Bihar.	9-4-45	Py-605(335)	122
1713	Ditto	Organisation of Storage Directorate—qualifications and pay of the officers.	9-4-45	Py-605(336)	123
1721	Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde.	Price of foodstuffs in Bijapur and profit made by Government.	9-4-45	Py-605(338)	124
1724	Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury.	Cost of 100 lbs. of dehydrated meats prepared by different Government factories.	9-4-45	Py-605(339)	126
1725	Ditto	Tenders procedure for supply of dressed carcass of goat meat for the factories by Government.	9-4-45	Py-605(340)	127
1726	Ditto	Willingness by other factories to take the contract of meat dehydration at lower rates.	9-4-45	Py-605(341)	127
1727	Ditto	Price of dehydrated meat of Delhi Factory conducted by Government is higher than other factories.	9-4-45	Py-605(342)	127
1806	Mr. M. Ghiasuddin.	Appointment of Circle Rationing Officer from Hindu backward classes.	12-4-45	Py-605(343)	128
1809	Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.	Contribution of Rs. 1,25,000 by the Sweet and Milk Union Delhi towards the National Savings Certificates.	12-4-45	Py-605(345)	128
1810	Ditto	Reference of Starred Question No. 542 dated 28th February 1945 re security deposits and No. of defaulters.	12-4-45	Py 605 (340)	128
1811	Ditto	Sale of pan, soda and ice in shops under separate permits and licences.	12-4-45	Py 605 (347)	129
1812	Ditto	Deposit of Rs. 250 by every bakery and halwai and the difficulty caused thereby.	12-4-45	Py 605 (348)	130

Q. No.	Asked by	Subject	Answered on	File No.	Page No.
3	Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali.	No. of food parcels and their maximum weight allowed by the Government to be exported from India to England.	9-2-45	Py 605 (145)	130
51	Sardar Mangal Singh.	Appointment of Sikhs, Christians, Europeans etc., in the Food Department since its creation.	5-3-45	Py 605 (217)	130
88	Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.	Order for the requirements of the Defence Forces regarding canned fruit.	13-3-45	Py 605 (251)	131
132	Mr. K. C. Neogy	Transfer of officials from places outside to the Rationing and Civil Supplies Offices—their duties.	4-4-45	Py 605 (329)	131
133	Ditto	Promotion of the staff to the post of Officers in Delhi Rationing and Civil Supplies Offices and appointment of outsiders.	4-4-45	Py 605 (330)	132

PART—I

COUNCIL OF STATE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Thursday, 15th February, 1945

SELLING OF FLOUR IN BENGAL AS MANURE

1. The Honourable Kumar N. N. Sinha: Is it a fact that about 850 maunds of atta, rotting in a Government godown in Bengal has been sold by the authorities at about four annas per maund for the purpose of manure being unfit for human consumption? Why was the stock of atta allowed to rot and not given to save human lives?

The Honourable Mr. R. H. Hutchings: An enquiry has been made from the Bengal Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House as soon as it is received.

Friday, 16th February, 1945

RICE FOR BIHAR FROM NEPAL

22. The Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh: (a) Is it a fact that the Bihar Government sometime back requested the Government of India to allot a portion of Nepal rice purchased by the latter, to Bihar, on the ground that normally Bihar used to purchase rice from Nepal, but this year owing to the Government of India purchasing rice from Nepal, Bihar has been deprived of that rice?

(b) Have the Government of India declined to accept the request of that Provincial Government for supply of foodgrains; and if so, why?

The Honourable Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) & (b) No, Sir.

SUGAR PRODUCTION

37. The Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal: (a) How much sugar was produced by factories in India and by khandsari method in each of the last three years?

(b) How much was imported and exported in each of these years from or to which country?

(c) How much sugar was purchased by Government in each of these years and how much was available for consumption by civilian population?

The Honourable Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a), (b) & (c) A statement is laid on the table

Statement showing sugar produced in India by factories and Khandsari method, qualities and the names of the countries from which imported or exported to, quantities purchased by Government and those available for civilian consumption during the last 3 years.

		(All figures in tons)		
		1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
(a) Production—				
(i) By factories		7,98,412	10,74,752	12,24,106
(ii) By Khandsari methods (estimated)		1,00,000	80,000	80,000
(b) (i) Imports—40,000 tons sugar was imported into British India by sea during 1941-42 from Java. There have been no imports in subsequent years.				
(ii) Exports				
Name of the country.		1941-42 (Tons)	1942-43 (Tons)	1943-44 (Tons)
1. Burma		34	..	..
2. Tibet		..	..	..
3. Bhutan		2,594	..	104
4. Nepal		..	1,050	1,562
5. Sikkim		..	215	250
6. Afghanistan		1,906	4,487	4,800
7. Persia		15,353	..	2,400
8. Saudi Arabia		Details	1,350	..
9. Kowait		of supply	1,690	1,755
10. Bahrein		to each	2,352 7	2,209 7
11. Trucial coast		not readi-	1,737	1,922
12. Muscat		ly avail-	252	252
13. Gwadur		able.	66	75
14. Other countries		18,494	..	..
Total		38,381	13,199 7	15,329 7

(In tons.)

	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44.
(c) (i) Purchased by the Government for Defence requirements	46,000	81,872	92,352
(ii) Available for civilian consumption	8,54,031	10,59,680	3,11,96,424 3

RATIONING SCHEMES

42. The Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal: Will Government place on the table a statement showing:—

(a) the places in India at which the rationing of food materials has been introduced and in which it is in operation;

(b) the places at which food materials are supplied at fixed rates to people whose income is below a prescribed sum?

The Honourable Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) A statement showing the towns and areas rationed or partially rationed is placed on the table.

(b) Under all rationing schemes foodgrains that are rationed are issued at fixed rates to all ration card holders irrespective of their incomes.

Schemes for the supply of foodgrains to people with smaller incomes at subsidised rates are in force in certain places, but I regret, Sir, that complete information is not available.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: Will the Honourable Member give some idea of the provinces in which this is being done?

The Honourable Mr. R. H. Hutchings: In certain towns in the United Provinces, Sir. That is an instance.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: Is that the only instance or are other provinces also doing it?

The Honourable Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I have said, Sir, that complete information is not available, but I believe that there are other places where this is done.

Statement showing the places in India at which the Rationing of Food materials has been introduced and in which it is in operation.

Province/State	Names of towns and area	Province/State	Names of towns and area
Assam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shillong. 2. Jorhat. 3. Sylhet. 4. Tezpur. 5. Nowgong. 6. Gauhati. 7. Dhubri. 8. Dibrugarh. 9. Silchar. 	Bengal—contd.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 50. Rural areas of Sadar Sub-Division. 51. Feni Sub-Division. 52. Jhargram Town. 53. Sadar (South Sub-Division). 54. Sadar (North Sub-Division). 55. Contai. 56. Barasat Gobardanga 48 Unions of Barasat (Sub-Division). 57. All the Unions of the Narburi (Sub-Division). 58. North Dum-Dum. 59. Other Unions of Barrackpore Sub-Division. 60. Kalna Town. 61. Kalna Sub-Division. 62. Tamluk Sub-Division including six Thanas and Tamluk town. 63. Chandpur town. 64. Raazan.
Bengal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calcutta Industrial Area. 2. Chittagong. 3. Patiya. 4. Satkania. 5. Mymensingh. 6. Cox Bazar. 7. Mir Sarai. 8. Sita Kund. 9. Panchlailsh. 10. Hathazari. 11. Fatikchahi. 12. Ranjan. 13. Rangunia. 14. Anwara. 15. Boalkhati. 16. Banskhali. 17. Double Moorings. 18. Seraiganj. 19. Nilphamari Sub-Division (whole). 20. Uttarpura Kotrang 21. Rishra Konnagore. 22. Serampore. 23. Baidyabati. 24. Champdany Bhadreswar. 25. Hoogly Chinsurah. 26. Bansberia. 27. Kurseong (Urban and Suburban). 28. Kalimpong. 29. Burdwan Sadar Sub-Division. 30. Katwa (Sub-Division). 31. Faridpur. 32. Madaripur. 33. Rajbari. 34. Muktagacha. 35. Gowripore. 36. Netrakona. 37. Kishoreganj. 38. Bajitpur. 39. Jamalpur. 40. Sherpur. 41. Tangail. 42. Jessore. 43. Kotheandpur. 44. Moheshpur. 45. Other Sub-Division areas and rural area of Jessore. 46. Sadar (S) of Bakarganj District. 47. Joybarore. 48. Barupur. 49. Rajpur. 	Bihar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gaya. 2. Dhanbad Jharra. 3. Patna. 4. Jamshedpur. 5. Giridih. 6. Arrah. 7. Chapra. 8. Laheria Sarai Darbhanga town. 9. Ranchi. 10. Monghyr. 11. Muzaffarpur. 12. Bhagalpur.
		Bombay	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ahmedabad. 2. Surat. 3. Poona City Suburban and Cantt. and Kirkee Cantt. 4. Sholapur. 5. Hubli. 6. Bombay City and B. S. D. 7. Nasik. 8. Benaulim City and Cantt. 9. Broach. 10. Ahmednagar City and Cantt. 11. Dhulia (West Khandes District). 12. Bandra. 13. Ghat Kopar. 14. Juhu. 15. Kuria. 16. Malad. 17. Parle Andheri. 18. Mulund. 19. Chembur. 20. Remaining Rural areas of Suburban District 21. Viramgam.

Province/State	Names of towns and area
Bombay— <i>contd.</i>	22. Dholka. 23. Nadiad. 24. Kapadwang. 25. Anand. 26. Borsad. 27. Umreth. 28. Godhra. 29. Dohad. 30. Rander. 31. Bulsar. 32. Thana. 33. Kalyan. 34. Bassein. 35. Bhiwandi. 36. Jalgaon. 37. Chalisgaon. 38. Ashta. 39. Amalner. 40. Bhusawal. 41. Erandol. 42. Parola. 43. Chopda. 44. Dharangaon. 45. Nandurbar. 46. Shirpur. 47. Dondaiche. 48. Malegaon (Nasik District) 49. Igatpuri. 50. Taloda. 51. Shahada. 52. Yeola. 53. Sinnar. 54. Nandgoan. 55. Marnad. 56. Baramati (Poona Dis. trict). 57. Lonavla (including Khandala). 58. Dhond. 59. Talegaon Dobhade. 60. Satara. 61. Karad. 62. Wai. 63. Panchgani. 64. Mahabaleswar. 65. Barsi (Sholapur Dis. trict). 66. Pandharpur. 67. Gokak (Belgaum Dis. trict). 68. Nipani. 69. Athni. 70. Bijapur. 71. Bagal Kot. 72. Guledgud. 73. Ilkal. 74. Dharwar. 75. Gadag. 76. Ranebenur. 77. Havori. 78. Karwar (Kanare Dis. trict). 79. Matheran. 80. Panvel (Kolaba District) 81. Ratnagiri. 82. Chiplun. 83. Matwan. 84. Islampur. 85. Tasgaon.

Province/State	Names of towns and area
C. P.	1. Nagpur. 2. Jubbulpore.
Madras	1. Madras. 2. Suburban Area includ- ing Saidapet. 3. Vizagapatam. 4. Tinnevely-cum-Palam- cottah. 5. Madura. 6. Trichinopoly-cum-Sriran- gam. 7. Coimbatore. 8. Vellore. 9. Salem. 10. Mangalore. 11. Calicut. 12. Guntur. 13. Bezwada. 14. Rajahmundry. 15. Cocanada. 16. Tuticorin. 17. Dindigul. 18. Rajapalayam. 19. Tiruppur. 20. Vizianagram. 21. Kurnool. 22. Bellary. 23. Conjeeveram. 24. Kumbakonam. 25. Negapatam. 26. Tanjore. 27. Palghat. 28. Tellicherry. 29. Cannanore. 30. Cuddalore. 31. Muslipatam. 32. Nellore. 33. Tenali. 34. Ellore. 35. Bodinayakanur. 36. Palni. 37. Periyakulam. 38. Devakottai. 39. Karaikudi. 40. Sivakasi. 41. Srivilliputtur. 42. Virudhunagar. 43. Karur. 44. Dharampur. 45. Erode. 46. Pollachi. 47. Udumalpet. 48. Coonoor. 49. Ootacamund. 50. Kodaikanal. 51. Bimilipatam. 52. Anakapalli. 53. Chicacole. 54. Prodtattur. 55. Nandyal. 56. Tadpatri. 57. Adoni. 58. Hospet. 59. Wallajah. 60. Vaniyambadi. 61. Tirupatur. 62. Gudiyatham. 63. Tiruvannamalai.

Province/State	Names of towns and area	Province/State	Names of towns and area
Madras—contd.	64. Chingleput. 65. Chittor. 66. Tirupathi 67. Mannarkudi. 68. Mayavaram. 69. Tiruvarur. 70. Kasargod. 71. Udipi. 72. Cochin. 73. Villupuram. 74. Chidambaram. 75. Peddepuram. 76. Gudivada. 77. Palacola. 78. Ongole. 79. Calicut Taluk (Rural Area). 80. Kurambranad Taluk (Rural Area). 81. Kottayam (Rural Area). 82. Chirakkal (Rural Area). 83. Narasaraopet. 84. Cuddapah. 85. Anantapur. 86. Hindupur.	U. P.—contd.	15. Muttra. 16. Farrukhabad. 17. Etawah. 18. Mirzapur. 19. Fyzabad. 20. Mussoori. 21. Hardwar. 22. Roorkee. 23. Hathras. 24. Ferozabad. 25. Nainital. 26. Almora. 27. Ranikhet. 28. Pauri. 29. Lansdowne. 30. Ghazipur. 31. Ballia. 32. Jaunpur. 33. Deoria. 34. Azamgarh. 35. Mau. 36. Partabgarh. 37. Sultanpur. 38. Rai Bareilly. 39. Unao.
N. W. F. P.	1. Peshawar City and Cantt.	Baluchistan	1. Quetta (including Cantt.). 2. Chaman Town. 3. Pishin. 4. Saravan. 5. Gulistan. 6. Killa-Abdulla. 7. Boston. 8. Yuru. 9. Quetta Tehsil (Tribal area) 10. Chaman Tehsil (Tribal area). 11. Pishin Tehsil (Tribal area).
Orissa	1. Puri. 2. Berhampur. 3. Cuttack (including Chamliaganj Naya-bazar, Chhatrabazar, Khunagor, Bidyadharpur, Kauheipur (Tingharia). 4. Balasoro. 5. Sambalpur. 6. Jharsugoda Union Board areas. 7. Bargarh. 8. Rayaghada. 9. Gunupur. 10. Aungl. 11. Kotppad. 12. Jeypur.	Ajmer-Merwar	1. Ajmer.
Punjab	1. Rawalpindi. 2. Amritsar. 3. Lahore.	Delhi	1. Delhi and New Delhi.
Sind	1. Karachi. 2. Hyderabad.	Hyderabad (Decan).	1. Hyderabad (Decan). 2. Secunderabad. 3. Warangal. 4. Hyderabad Suburban area (Atraf, Balda Beyat Taluqs). 5. Narayanpet.
U. P.	1. Jhansi. 2. Bareilly. 3. Shahjahanpur. 4. Cawnpore. 5. Lucknow. 6. Benares. 7. Agra. 8. Allahabad. 9. Saharanpur. 10. Meerut. 11. Aligarh. 12. Moradabad. 13. Gorakhpur. 14. Dehra Dun.	Mysore States	1. C. and M. Station Bangalore. 2. Bangalore City. 3. Mysore City. 4. Colar Gold Field. 5. Sandur State. 6. Banganapalle State. 7. Tumkur.
		Cochin State	1. Trichur. 2. Mattanchery. 3. Ernakulam. 4. Cholakudi. 5. Narakkal. 6. Tripuni-Thura. 7. Irinjalakunda.

Province/State	Names of towns and area	Province/State	Names of towns and area
Cochin State— <i>contd.</i>	8. Ollur. 9. Kunnamkulam. 10. Wadakkanchery. 11. Palanji. 12. Chittur. 13. Tattamangalam. 14. Nemmara. 15. Oranganore. 16. Other remaining areas of Cochin State.	Deccan States— <i>contd.</i>	6. Hunupur (including Kadapatti and Han- chinal). 7. Miraj town. 8. Jath State. 9. Shahpur.
Travancore State	1. Trivandrum City. 2. Alleppey. 3. Nagercoil. 4. Quilon. 5. Kottayam. 6. Thovala. 7. Agastiswaram. 8. Kalkulam. 9. Vilavancode. 10. Neyyattinkara. 11. Trivandrum. 12. Nedumangad. 13. Chirayinkil. 14. Quilon (Rural). 15. Kottarakara. 16. Pathanapuram. 17. Thiruvella. 18. Ambalapuzha. 19. Shencottah. 20. Karthigapally. 21. Mavelikara. 22. Kunnathur. 23. Pathanamtheta. 24. Shertallai. 25. Charganacherry. 26. Kottayam. 27. Vaikom. 28. Meenachil. 29. Thodupuzha. 30. Kunnathanad. 31. Parur. 32. Peermade. 33. Devicolum. 34. Karrunagappally. 35. Murathapuzha.	Kashmir	1. Srinagar.
		Baroda and Guj- rat States.	1. Dumas. 2. Bhimpore. 3. Sultanbad.
		Central India States.	1. Bhopal city. 2. Indore. 3. Sehore and all Tehsil Headquarters. 4. Mhow. 5. Dhar. 6. Ratlam. 7. Sitamau. 8. Laduna. 9. Raigarh (Proper). 10. Biaora. 11. Narsingarh. 12. Pachora. 13. Khujner. 14. Chhpihera. 15. Khilchipur. 16. Kurwai. 17. Bareth. 18. Deara. 19. Ringnod town Kaslia. 20. Dewas town. 21. Sarangpur. 22. Padlia. 23. Dewas Senior and Alote.
		Rajputana States	1. District of Abu. 2. Partabgarh city. 3. Banswara town.
		Western India States.	1. Bhavnagar. 2. Jafraabad (State). 3. Sardargarh. 4. Mayapadar. 5. Dharangadbra. 6. Vithalgaadh.
Deccan States .	1. Sangli. 2. Kohlapur city (Kasba Bayda and adjoining Wadis). 3. Jamkhandi. 4. Banubatti. 5. Rampur.	Gwalior, Ram- pur and Bena- res States.	1. Greater Gwalior. 2. Ramnagar. 3. Rampur. 4. Gyanpur.

FORTNIGHTLY REPORTS FROM PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON 'THE FOOD POSITION

43. The Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal: (a) Have Government received or called for reports from Provincial Governments of the food situation in each district of their respective provinces? If so, how many reports in a year?

(b) Do Government propose to call for reports of each district relating to food situation every three months?

The Honourable Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) The Government of India already receive Fortnightly Reports from Provincial Governments on the general food position in each province including the position in particular districts of that Province if these call for special comment.

(b) No, Sir.

The Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal: Do Government propose to issue a summary of these reports?

The Honourable Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir.

QUANTITY OF FOODSTUFFS PRODUCED IN DISTRICTS IN RELATION TO POPULATION

44. The Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal: Will Government place on the table a statement showing for each district (i) population, (ii) the quantity of food-stuffs required, (iii) the quantity produced in the district, (iv) the quantity supplied by other districts both from within the province and outside, (v) the actual supply to the people, and (vi) the rates of staple food-grains?

The Honourable Mr. R. H. Hutchings: The information is not readily available with the Government of India, and they consider that the labour involved in collecting it would not be justified by the results.

The Honourable Mr. Thirumala Row: Are Government satisfied that at least Provincial Governments are equipped with the necessary information with regard to the districts?

The Honourable Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Mr. Thirumala Row: Have Government got their reports with them?

The Honourable Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir.

The Honourable Mr. Thirumala Row: Then how are they controlling the situation in the whole of India?

The Honourable Mr. R. H. Hutchings: We are satisfied, Sir, that we are sufficiently in touch with the situation in the different provinces to deal with the situation.

WEDNESDAY, 7th MARCH, 1945

WHEAT IMPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA

82. The Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal: Will Government state how much wheat was imported from Australia direct to India during each of the last three years and how much from Canada during the same period?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: A statement is laid on the table.

Wheat (including products) imported from :—

Year		(1) Australia	(2) Canada
			(In tons)
1942	January-August*		18,283
	September-December	26,236	Nil
1943		225,729	5,043
1944		5,81,041	29,763

* Total imports during this period were 18,283 tons, according to D.C.I. and S., but the break-up according to Countries of origin is not available.

RATIONING IN SURPLUS AREAS

88. The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: Will Government state their final conclusions for 1945-46 on rationing in surplus and self-sufficient areas in view of the great fall in prices of food grains?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member is referred to the Resolutions on Rationing, passed by the 5th All-India Food Conference, copy of which is attached to the Memorandum on the Food Position in India already laid on the table of the House.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: Has that been circulated to members?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: It has been laid on the table of the House.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: Will the Government circulate it to the members?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes.

WEDNESDAY, THE 14th MARCH, 1945

LOAN OF STAFF TO THE DELHI RATIONING ORGANISATION.

121. The Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh: (a) Are Government aware that the Government of India loaned 3 per cent. of their staff to the Delhi Rationing Organisation for a period of 3 months only? If so, why the staff so loaned has not been returned?

(b) Will Government ask the Controller of Rationing to return such staff, if and when asked for by the Departments concerned?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative except that no date was prescribed for the return of this staff. Their services are still required for the administration of Delhi rationing.

(b) No, not at present.

VACANCIES IN SUPERIOR APPOINTMENTS OF THE DELHI CIVIL SUPPLIES ORGANISATION

122. The Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh: (a) Are Government aware that the legitimate claims for promotion of the regular staff are often overlooked, and outsiders are brought in to fill up the higher appointments? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that when the aggrieved parties represent their cases, they are threatened with dismissal?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) No, Sir. Vacancies in superior appointments of the Delhi Civil Supplies Organisation are filled both by direct recruitment and by promotion.

(b) No. Every representation preferred through the proper channel receives careful consideration.

RESIGNATION OF THEIR APPOINTMENTS BY CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE RATIONING STAFF

123. The Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh: (a) Are Government aware that due to the ill-treatment by some of the superior officers, a Chief Inspector, a Rationing Officer (senior grade), a few members of the staff (including Assistant Controller of Rationing) had to resign their posts, or seek their transfers elsewhere?

(b) Do Government propose to institute an impartial enquiry to go into the grievances of the Government of India staff regarding supersessions, dismissals, ill-treatment and resignations, and take such action as may be necessary and proper?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: It is not clear to which administration the Honourable Member is referring.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CIVIL SUPPLIES, DELHI RATIONING

124. The Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh: Is it a fact that the present Deputy Director, Civil Supplies, Delhi Rationing, has superseded 3 senior Provincial Civil Service officers, who held better qualifications and were awaiting promotion?

Note.—Questions against the Hon. Raja Yuveraj-Dutta Singh were asked by the Hon. Mr. G. S. Moti Lal.

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: No, Sir. The officer referred to is a Deputy Director of the Food Department, whose services have been lent to the Civil Supplies Department of the Delhi Administration. He has not superseded any Provincial Service Officer.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: Did he not belong to the Provincial Service?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: He is a Deputy Director in the Food Department. He is not a member of the Provincial Civil Service.

DEPUTATION ALLOWANCE FOR STAFF LOANED TO THE DELHI RATIONING ORGANISATION

125. The Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh: (a) Is it a fact that no deputation allowance has been granted to the Government of India staff on deputation to Delhi Rationing Organisation? If so, why?

(b) Do Government propose to grant anything in shape of deputation allowance to the Government of India staff?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Employment under the Delhi Administration is not a foreign service, so the question of deputation allowance does not arise.

(b) No.

WEDNESDAY, THE 21st MARCH, 1945

SALE OF DETERIORATED FLOUR IN DACCA

162. The Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh: Is it a fact that about 44,765 maunds of deteriorated *atta* was recently advertised for sale by the Additional District Magistrate for Food in Dacca? If so, why was the *atta* allowed to deteriorate and not given to the people to save human lives?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative though the actual quantity reported by the Bengal Government is 42,660 maunds.

This *atta* had been in stock since July, 1944 and could not be consumed as there was no demand for it. It deteriorated because of long-storage in a humid climate.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: Was it *atta* from Australian wheat or Indian wheat?

THURSDAY, THE 22nd MARCH, 1945

RICE PRODUCTION IN THE ARAKAN

204. The Honourable Mr. Thirumala Row: (a) Will Government state the figures with regard to the capacity of rice production in the Arakan before the war?

(b) Is the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation being given facilities to export rice and other commodities from this area to outside places?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The normal pre-war production of the Arakan Division of Burma, in terms of rice, was about 438,000 tons.

(b) No, Sir.

The Honourable Mr. Thirumala Row: Since the Arakan area has been re-occupied, have the Government of India any information whether they can get some rice to India from that area?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: We have had some reports to the effect that there is some Rice in the Arakan Division, but whether that rice is surplus to the requirements of the liberated area as a whole is yet to be known.

WEDNESDAY, THE 28th MARCH, 1945

ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE WITH FIRMS APPOINTED AS AGENTS FOR PURCHASING GHEE

254. The Honourable Mr. Narayandas Girdhardas: Will Government state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that a member of the Central Legislature was appointed by them as purchasing agent for *ghee* required for the Indian Army?

(b) The name of the agent appointed by them, the terms of his appointment, and the period he has acted as the agent?

(c) Whether the said arrangement still continues? If not, when was it terminated?

(d) Whether that agent had any previous experience or any direct or indirect connection with the *ghee* trade?

(e) By which Department of the Government of India this arrangement was made?

(f) The aggregate amount of commission or remuneration paid to that agent?

(g) Whether tenders were called from public as is usually done by wide advertisement in newspapers for acting as purchasing agent of Government for purchase of *ghee* required for the army? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). Two members of the Central Legislature are associated with firms appointed as agents for purchasing *ghee*. Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lallji is one of the partners of the firm of M/s Hooseinbhoj Sons & Co. and Mr. Y. Haroon is a partner in the Sind *Ghee* Purchasing Agency. The first firm has been working from October, 1942 and the second from December, 1943.

(c) The agreement with Messrs. Hooseinbhoj & Sons continues till 31st May, 1945, that with the Sind *Ghee* Purchasing Agency till August, 1945.

(d) Yes. Messrs. Hooseinbhoj & Sons and one of the partners in the Sind *Ghee* Purchasing Agency have previous experience of the *ghee* trade.

(e) The Supply Department appointed Messrs. Hooseinbhoj & Sons, before the Food Department came into existence, and the Food Department appointed the Sind *Ghee* Purchasing Agency.

(f) The accounts of the firms have not yet been completed but it is estimated that the firm of Messrs Hooseinbhoj & Sons have from the time of their appointment earned a remuneration of approximately Rs. 1,20,000 and the Sind *Ghee* Purchasing Agency Rs. 14,600.

(g) No. The initial selection of the firms was made with reference to their experience and status. In 1944 however, the annual term of both firms was renewed after considering other tenders.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: What is the commission paid on purchases?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: They are allowed the actual prices of *ghee* paid by them subject to a ceiling, together with a fixed rate per maund to cover expenses in purchasing and in handling, and a remuneration of from 5 annas 9 pies to 9 annas according to the quantity purchased.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: Per maund, or per rupee?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: I think it must be per maund.

The Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha: Have Government similar purchasing agencies in other Provinces in India?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: There are four purchasing agents, and these agents cover practically the whole of India.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: I hope it refers to natural *ghee* and not vegetable *ghee*.

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: This refers to milk *ghee*.

The Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal: Who are the other agents? Two were mentioned.

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: I cannot give you the correct names straight-away, but I think the other agents are Alopi Pershad, which covers North India, and the British India Ghee Company, which operates in the Madras Presidency.

PURCHASE OF RICE BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES

255. The Honourable Mr. Narayandas Girdhardas: Will Government state: (a) Whether it is a fact that some years back agents were appointed in the Madras Presidency for the purchase of rice required by the military department? If so, will they state the names of individuals and firms appointed by them as agents to supply or purchase rice and also state the terms of their appointment as agents?

(b) By whom this arrangement for purchase or supply of rice was made and when and where it was made?

(c) What were the rates at which these agents were asked to supply rice required by them? What were the controlled rates of rice at that time? Will Government state whether rates at which these agents were asked to supply rice were above or below the control rates fixed by Government? Will Government state the difference between the controlled rates of rice then and the rates at which these agents were asked to supply rice to them?

(d) Whether tenders were called from the public inviting applications before placing such contracts?

(e) If not, will they state the reasons for not inviting tenders before placing those contracts for supply of rice?

(f) The total quantity of rice supplied by those agents?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative.

The second part does not arise.

(b), (c), (d), (e) and (f). Do not arise.

FRIDAY, THE 6th APRIL 1945

SHORTAGE OF MILK IN BOMBAY

288. The Honourable Mr. Narayandas Girdhardas: (a) Are Government aware of the acute shortage of milk in the city of Bombay and the ban imposed by the Bombay Provincial Government on the use of milk for coffee or tea in restaurants, clubs and other public eating places; (b) will Government state the causes of milk scarcity in Bombay and other parts of British India; (c) will Government state whether the scarcity of milk is caused by slaughter of cows and she-buffaloes for the fighting services based in India; (d) will Government state the number of cows and she-buffaloes slaughtered daily all over India to feed the fighting forces; and (e) do Government propose to take steps to stop the buying of milk for fighting forces in and around the city of Bombay to make it available for civilian use and feed the fighting forces with the imported skimmed milk powder thus releasing the fresh milk for use of the civil population of the City of Bombay?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The causes leading to the scarcity of milk in Bombay and other urban areas in British India are:—

- (1) Increased demand due to increase in the population and money incomes.
- (2) Restrictions on the movement of cattle and cattle feeds.
- (3) Increase in the prices of cattle and cattle feeds, and
- (4) Difficulty of Transport.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The statistical information desired is not readily available, but the slaughter of cows and she-buffaloes capable of producing milk is prohibited.

(e) Endeavours are being made to substitute imported supplies of tinned, powdered milk for fresh milk.

The Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal: Is fresh milk in the city of Bombay taken for military purposes also?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: A limited quantity of fresh milk is taken for the Defence Services.

The Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal: Is the Honourable Member in a position to give us the quantity?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: I think the quantity is about 250 maunds a day.

The Honourable Sir Shantidas Askuran: How many Provinces have introduced the prohibition of slaughter of milch animals under age?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: I think all over India so far as I am aware.

The Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal: What is the total quantity which is brought to Bombay out of which these 250 maunds are taken for military purposes?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: I must ask for notice.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: Do not Government make any arrangements to supply the Defence Services from imported milk?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: They also use a certain quantity of powdered milk.

The Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal: How much of it—I mean powdered milk—is used for military purposes?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not in a position to answer that question.

SHORTAGE OF MILK IN BOMBAY

289. **The Honourable Mr. Narayandas Girdhardas:** Are Government aware that people become sick after taking tea or coffee at restaurants in Bombay with milk powder imported from Australia or New Zealand?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: No, Sir.

APPOINTMENT OF CIRCLE RATIONING OFFICERS FROM BACKWARD CLASSES

297. **The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam:** Will Government state whether any Circle Rationing Officer at Delhi, Lucknow and Lahore has been appointed from the Hindu backward classes such as Ahirs, Godariyas, Lohars, Barhais, Bhurjees and Kahars, who are 16 to 17 crores in number in India? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: *Delhi, Lucknow and Lahore.*—No, Sir. No suitable candidate was available.

The Honourable Mr. V. V. Kalikar: Did you advertise for the appointments or were they made by the Department itself?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: These appointments relate to Provincial Governments and I cannot give you the exact information.

The Honourable Mr. P. N. Saprú: How do you assert that no suitable candidates were forthcoming?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: We asked for a report from the Provincial Governments.

The Honourable Mr. P. N. Saprú: Then your reply was based on the information supplied by the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: Will Government give some direction to the Provincial Governments that these people also get some share in these appointments?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: I am sure that the Provincial Governments take this into consideration in making their appointments.

NON-USE OF RATION CARDS BY THE BACKWARD CLASSES

298. The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: Is it a fact that thousands of backward and Scheduled caste people in Lucknow and Delhi are not using their ration cards with a view to helping the wounded soldiers and are using coarse grain on the appeal and preaching of Swami Kuljug Anand and Swami Sachutanand?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: *Lucknow and Delhi.*—I have no such information.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: Have the Government made any enquiries?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: We made certain enquiries, and we found that what was alleged was not quite correct.

The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam: But what are the exact facts as reported by the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: So far as the first part of the question is concerned, the Provincial Governments have no such information. As regards the second part also, so far as the Provincial Government are concerned, they have no such information.

THURSDAY, 12th APRIL, 1945

EXPORT OF FOODSTUFFS TO CEYLON

374. The Honourable Mr. Narayandas Girdhardas: Do Government propose to prohibit large exports of pulses and grams and foodgrains to Ceylon in view of the acute shortage of foodgrains in this country?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir. Unless as has happened in the past supplies in India of a particular commodity exceed the demand, and are required in Ceylon.

The Honourable Mr. Thirumala Row: Can you give us any idea of what commodity is in excess of demand?

The Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen: There is a slight excess in pulses and about 2,000 tons of pulses are going to Ceylon every month.

PART II

Legislative Assembly

I.—STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Friday, 9th February, 1945

PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD IN SIND

36. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the present policy of procurement, distribution and export of food in and outside India?

(b) What are the definite orders and directions of the Government of India given specifically to the Government of Sind for procurement and distribution in Sind?

(c) Is any Central machinery adopted for the above purposes in Sind or has it been left to the Provincial Government of Sind to adopt one?

(d) Are the two syndicates that were working previously for procurement and distribution of food, in existence or have been abolished? If the latter, what arrangements are now going on for the above purposes?

(e) Does the Government of Sind make any regular monthly or other reports to the Central Government regarding the working of the aforesaid machinery in Sind? If so, will Government place on the table the last report either made by the Government of Sind or called for from the Government of Sind?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A Memorandum covering the matters, mentioned by the Honourable Member has been placed on the table of the House. The attention of the Honourable Member is also invited to the progress report on the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, which was laid on the table of the House during the last Session.

(b) No specific orders have been given in this respect but the Provincial Government were directed in 1943 not to amend or cancel their orders fixing the maximum prices of foodgrains in Sind, without the previous approval of the Central Government.

(c) There is no central machinery for procurement and distribution of foodgrains in Sind.

(d) The wheat Syndicate is still in existence. The other Syndicate, viz., Foodgrains Exporters Syndicate, has been abolished, and replaced by the "Sind Purchase Board".

(e) The Government of Sind, and all other Governments send periodical reports to the Food Department on all matters concerning their food administrations. No special report is called for from the Government of Sind.

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD

MEMORANDUM ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA AND DEVELOPMENTS OF FOOD POLICY UPTO 2ND FEBRUARY, 1945

During the past year there has been a steady improvement in the food situation throughout the country. Conditions of acute shortage experienced in the previous year have ceased to exist. The enforcement of Government's policy with regard to statutory control of prices, procurement by Government or Government controlled agencies and rationing has yielded good results. Progress has also been made towards stabilizing market prices, under ceiling statutory controls at levels which will ease the burden on the consumer and at the same time will provide an incentive to the producer to maintain and increase production. In the case of certain specific crops, we have announced the level at which we are prepared to buy all grain offered in the principal assembling markets in the main producing areas, should prices fall. We have also tried to reduce undue disparities between the levels of prices prevailing for the same grain and class of grain in different areas. The progress which has already been achieved in this direction has been brought about by the statutory control of prices supported by the importation of foodgrains from abroad and the planned movement of internal stocks to the areas where they are required. Distribution under Government control to the consumer is being increasingly done through rationing in urban areas and in some cases in rural areas also.

Steady progress has also been made towards monopoly procurement of foodgrains by Government, which has already been adopted by certain provinces and States. The principle of monopoly procurement has been fully discussed and approved at the 5th All-India Food Conference of official representatives of Governments in the light of an examination of existing foodgrains monopolies conducted by Food Department.

A.—Summary of Crop Prospects

Kharif.—The monsoon was late in Assam, Bengal, Orissa, the U. P., the C. P., Madras and Bombay, and delayed sowings in some parts of these provinces. It broke strongly in July in the U. P., the C. P. and Bombay, but continued uneven in Bengal and Madras, and was light in Assam. Its incidence was irregular in Madras. Districts in the north-east of that province received more rain than usual, while Malabar did not receive any rainfall until the middle of July. Rainfall in Travancore and Cochin was poor, being about 50 per cent. of the normal.

In Bombay and the C. P. excessive and continuous rain in July retarded sowing and damaged the jowar and bajri crops and necessitated re-sowing in some of the districts. In the rest of the country it was beneficial to the crops. In August there was a break affecting, transplantation in Assam, parts of Bengal and the U. P. In the C. P. and Bombay, it continued strong and led to floods in some districts.

Sind experienced unusually heavy rainfall in August, and some damage was done to the crops and stored grain.

The weather was generally favourable in September and jowar and bajra crops recovered, in the C. P., the U. P. and Bombay. In North-West India the rains were generally well distributed and did not have any adverse effect on crops.

On the whole, the monsoon was favourable for the rice crop, except in Assam, parts of Bengal and the U. P. The millets crop was damaged in the C. P., Bombay, the Western India States and the Central India States by excessive rain in July. Travancore, Cochin and parts of Madras suffered from scanty rainfall and the rice crops there have been below average.

Rabi.—Rabi crops all over the country are reported to be doing well. Widespread rainfall during January has proved beneficial to the standing crops. If nothing untoward happens during the next two months, a good Rabi harvest will be reaped all over the country.

B.—Progress of the Basic Plan.

Two Basic Plans are now in operation for the controlled distribution of the major foodgrains from surplus areas to deficit areas. One deals with the Kharif grains—rice, millets and maize—and the other with the Rabi grains—wheat and barley. The Kharif Plan is operative from November 1944, to October 1945; while the Rabi Plan is operative from May 1944 to April 1945. The two Plans taken together attempt the distribution of about 3.2 million tons of foodgrains including about 0.4 million tons arrears from the preceding year's Plans, from surplus to deficit areas, and to the Defence Services. Against the above combined total movement target of 3.2 million tons, about 1.4 million tons have been despatched up to 4th January 1945. The total quantity of foodgrains despatched to each of the principal deficit areas up to 4th January 1945 is given below:—

Area	Quantity
Bengal	173,700 tons
Bombay	311,200 „
Madras	132,100 „
Travancore/Cochin	78,600 „
W. I. States and Baroda	14,100 „

The table below gives the total export quotas and the total despatches from surplus areas (including Overseas imports) to the deficit areas:—

(In 000 tons)

Foodgrains	Total quotas	Despatches up to 4.1.45 (for Kharif grains from 1.11.44 and Rabi grains from 1.5.44)	Percentage of Despatches to quotas
Rice	944	181	19
Millots	333	40	12
Maize	84	3	4
Wheat	1,757	1,162	66
Barley	99	28	28
Total	3,217	1,414	44

The wheat quota given above includes 750,000 tons of wheat from Overseas Imports (for April—December 1944).

On the basis of the present estimates the quotas for both the Kharif and Rabi grains are likely to be completed within the respective crop years.

2. Rabi Plan 1944-45 :—

(a) *Wheat*.—The Plan started with the distribution of a declared surplus of 1,018,000 tons wheat of which 250,000 tons was to arrive from Overseas. As the Plan progressed additional wheat surpluses aggregating 94,483 tons were offered by surplus areas, while the quantity of wheat from Overseas promised by His Majesty's Government was raised to 750,000 tons of which receipts upto 20th January 1945 total 544,230 tons.

(b) *Gram*.—Under the Rabi Plan 1944-45, a surplus of 281,500 tons gram was originally offered by surplus areas for distribution. Subsequent to the compilation of the Plan, additional surpluses declared by supplying areas together with quantities surrendered by deficit areas led to an accumulation of unallotted stocks aggregating 110,000 tons in producing areas. As gram cannot be used to any large extent to offset cereal deficit, the demand from the deficit areas was limited. The matter was placed before the Standing Food Advisory Committee of the Central Legislature at its meeting on the 9th September 1944. On their recommendation and with the approval of the provinces and states, it was decided to take gram movements off the Basic Plan. With effect from 1st November 1944, gram has been allowed to move through private trade on permits issued by the supplying administrations under high transport priority.

(c) *Barley*.—Since the issue of the Rabi Plan 1944-45 in May last, an additional surplus of 49,000 tons barley has been offered to the Food Department for controlled distribution to deficit areas raising the total surplus to 99,000 tons.

3. *Kharif Plan 1944-45*.—The total rice and millets surpluses offered to the Food Department by the Provinces and States for 1944-45, at the commencement of the Kharif Plan amounted to 684,000 tons and 260,000 tons respectively, while the declared deficits of rice and millets amounted to 3,109,000 tons and 1,050,000 tons respectively. Owing to the delay in the break of the monsoon and the Kharif sowings this year, the estimates of crop surpluses and deficit were based on very inadequate and approximate data. The estimates also did not include Rabi jowar production which is considerable in Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad and the Bombay States. The surpluses and deficits were as the whole estimated on a conservative basis. This has been borne out by the fact that since the issue of the Plan in November last the following further surpluses have been offered by the main surplus areas :—

Grain	(In tons)		
	Original Surplus	Additional Surplus	Surplus as revised up to date (25.1.45)
Rice	684,000	60,000	744,000
Millets	215,000	90,000	305,000

Even with additional rice and millets surpluses, the overall rice and millets position this year as compared with the preceding year is not satisfactory. In order to partially offset the rice and millets deficits, compensatory additional wheat allotments from Overseas Imports have been made to the deficit areas.

Thanks to the bumper rice harvest of 1943-44 and the measures for procurement and distribution undertaken by the Provincial and the Central Governments, the emergency conditions which called for a special measure of assistance for Bengal during 1944, have been brought under control.

4. *Basic Plan for Pulses*.—Pulses have also been brought under controlled distribution, and a Basic Plan for pulses was formulated for the first time in May 1944. At the time of the formulation of the Plan, the supplying areas had offered about 292,000 tons of pulses as against a declared deficit of about 470,000 tons. Since the issue of the Plan about 40,000 tons additional pulses have been offered by the surplus areas. The Kharif Pulses Plan for 1944-45 is now under formulation.

C.—Price Control.

After careful consideration of the recommendations of the Price Advisory Committee which met on the 17th August and again on the 9th October 1944 to consider Kharif Prices the Government of India came to the following decisions :—

(i) that the existing statutory maxima for rice, bajra and jowar in different Provinces (except the Eastern Region, viz., Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and the Eastern States) should continue unchanged for the next Kharif Year;

(ii) that no all-India maximum for maize should be announced;

(iii) that the fixation of maximum prices for the rabi crops be postponed to the harvest time when fuller data about the size of the crop would be available;

(iv) in view of the numerous varieties and differences in quality in different producing areas, it was considered impracticable to fix the prices of pulses on an all-India basis.

Provinces and State have therefore, been approached through the Regional Food Commissioners to see that prices are maintained at reasonable levels having regard to the prevailing prices of cereals in the areas concerned.

The next meeting of the Price Advisory Committee will be held on the 23rd and 24th March 1945, to consider the levels at which prices of rabi grains should be fixed.

2. Prices in the Eastern Region were considered, at a Conference convened by the Regional Food Commissioner, Eastern Region at Calcutta on the 9th November 1944, attended by representatives of the various units of the Region. The following conclusions were arrived at:

(i) that the statutory maximum price of rice in Bihar, Orissa and Eastern States be reduced as under :

	From Rs. a. p.	To Rs. a. p.
<i>Bihar</i>		
Rice (medium)	12 0 0	11 0 0
(coarse)	11 0 0	10 0 0
<i>Orissa</i>		
Rice (common)	9 0 0	7 12 0
(fine)	10 0 0 to 11 0 0	9 12 0
<i>Eastern States</i>		
Rice (hand pounded coarse)	10 8 0	10 0 0
(milled coarse)	11 8 0	11 0 0
(milled medium)	12 0 0	11 8 0

(ii) that statutory maximum prices in Bengal should continue unchanged till fuller information about the new crop was available.

The Government of India approved the recommendations of the Conference.

In Bihar the statutory maximum price of rice was further reduced with effect from the 15th January 1945 as below :

Rice (medium)—Rs. 10-0-0.

Rice (coarse)—Rs. 9-0-0.

(iii) Small reduction in rice and paddy prices proposed by the Assam Government were also approved.

3. From the trend in prices at the close of 1944, it was felt that it might, before long, be necessary, for the Government of India to implement their undertaking to buy all wheat, jowar and bajra offered in the assembling markets in the main producing areas at Rs. 7-8-0, Rs. 6-0-0 and Rs. 5-8-0 per maund respectively. Instructions were, therefore, issued to the Provincial Governments concerned regarding the procedure to be followed in implementing this guarantee. Similar instructions were issued to the States also to implement the undertaking to buy jowar and bajra at Rs. 5-0-0 and Rs. 5-8-0 per maund respectively.

4. In the course of the Food Debate in the Assembly at its last session, the question of subsidy was raised by several members and the representatives of the Food Department stated in reply that this question was under the active examination of the Department and that it may have to be referred to an Inter-Departmental Committee for report. The Food Department has, therefore, decided to set up an Inter-Departmental Committee as below :

Chairman.—Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India.

Members.—

(1) Sir Pheroze Kharegat, E. H. & L. Department.

(2) Mr. Narahari Rao, Finance Department.

(3) Mr. D. S. Joshi, Labour Department.

(4) Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Food Department.

The terms of reference are as below :

"To examine in all its bearings, financial, administrative and social, the principle of subsidy in the matter of both distribution and production of foodgrains and other foodstuffs, whether with a view to bringing down the cost of living or raising the standard of living or aiding in the solution of the price problem in agriculture, and to make recommendations."

D.—Rationing.

(A) Progress of Rationing.

1. There are now 516 towns and municipal areas wholly or partly rationed or to be shortly rationed for food in India, representing a total population of approximately 50 million people. Thus rationing has been extended to nearly 56 towns since the last report was presented in November 1944.

2. Some of the important developments during this period are :—

(i) Madras has introduced district-wide rationing in Malabar in all the Taluks except Wynad, for the rationing of which steps have already been taken.

(ii) Rationing was introduced in Peshawar on 22nd October 1944, and is reported to be working smoothly. Some local papers have suggested its extension to other towns.

(iii) In the Punjab it has been decided to introduce rationing in Simla.

(B) *Nutrition and use of substitute Grains for Rice.*

Governments in the southern parts of the country are doing their best to popularise the so-called 'coarse grains' in the peoples' diet in order to make it more balanced and not one which almost entirely consists of carbohydrates in rice.

The Cochin State have started a scheme under which free meals consisting chiefly of bajra preparations are served to school children suffering from mal-nutrition. The Cochin State have also organised the development of subsidised civic restaurants where meals made out of unfamiliar grains like wheat and millets are served at cheap rates. The Travancore State is subsidising the sale of wheat to the extent of Rs. 16 lacs per annum. The Madras Government have declared wheat as a rationed article in almost all the rationed areas and have arranged free cooking demonstrations at different child welfare centres in Madras City. In C. & M. Station Bangalore, the prices of foodgrains are subsidised to bring them in level with the prices in Bangalore City. In Bombay the prices of Sort II rice and millets are subsidised.

In order to secure expert advice on nutrition, some of the Provincial and State Governments have enlisted Nutrition specialists while others are making use of experts already available in those areas.

In view of the growing importance of Nutrition it has been decided to present in simple language the application of scientific research in all matters connected with protective foods by bringing out a monthly bulletin entitled "NUTRITION". The first issue is already out and has been widely distributed. A 'Note on Food and Nutrition Policy in India' by Dr. Aykroyd has been published and circulated. The brochure entitled 'Feeding the Worker-Canteens in Industry' contains a lot of information on nutrition, diet sheets, menus of Indian dishes, etc.

E.—Storage

There is and always has been in India, considerable waste of food owing to inefficient storage. It is now more than ever necessary to prevent this waste; and because governments have had to intervene and take over from the trade the responsibility for the procurement and distribution of food on a vast scale, their attention has been directed, on the initiative of the Central Government, to improving methods of storage and inspection. In the Food Department the nucleus of a Storage Directorate has been set up, whose officers have toured in most parts of India, and have been able to give technical advice on various aspects of the problem. The Directorate is being expanded: a programme has been drawn up for the construction of new storage godowns or the improvement of existing godowns, both to contain grain imported from overseas and grain procured in surplus areas and waiting transport to deficit areas. In the latter case the Government of India propose to share the cost of new construction with local governments.

F.—Sugar and Salt

Sugar.—The total production of sugar in the last season ending on the 30th November, 1944, amounted to 12,24,106 tons, out of which 93.5 per cent. has moved upto the 15th January, 1945, and the balance is with the factories which is also being moved during the current year. The production during the first six weeks of current season upto 15th January 1945, amounted to 2,75,641 tons out of which 43,380 tons, i.e., 15.7 per cent. has moved.

The final position regarding production will not be known until the end of March. In the meantime, a provisional allotment of sugar (including Khandasari) amounting to 9,58,100 tons to various Provinces and States for the year 1944-45, has been made on the basis of a production of one million tons.

Out of the proceeds of the Temporary Excise Duty on sugar levied under the Ordinances issued in 1943 and 1944—about Rs. 60 lakhs realised in 1943-44, and 1 crore and 35 lakhs estimated for the year 1944-45—a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been kept in reserve to compensate the sugar factories in case sugar prices are lowered. The balance of the fund has been placed at the disposal of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee who are being asked to draw up a five-year plan of development of Sugar Industry and submit it to the Government of India for approval before putting it into operation.

With a view to secure maximum sugar production during the current season and to encourage maintenance of adequate area under cane cultivation for the next season, the Central Government have agreed with the proposal of the United Provinces and Bihar Governments to drop the compulsory deduction for deferred payment from cane price and to pay full cane price in cash to the producers.

Gur.—It has been decided to allow exports through Indian traders of 5,000 and 3,500 tons of gur to Iran and Ceylon respectively during the year 1944-45.

G.—Procurement

The Report of the Special Officer deputed to survey the various Government monopoly schemes already operating was considered at the Fifth All-India Food Conference held on the 29th January to 2nd February. The resolution passed by the Conference on the subject is attached.

H.—Exports and Imports

The Government of India, after consultation with His Majesty's Government and with the approval of the Standing Advisory Committee of the Central Legislature decided to permit the export of 500 tons of foodgrains to the Hedjaz as a free gift from Indian Muslims for relief of distress.

Out of 1,100,000 tons of foodgrains promised by His Majesty's Government for the period October 1943, to December 1944, 904,724 tons have already been received and the balance is on the way. Allocations for the first quarter of 1945 and the Rabi year 1945-46 are under consideration.

I.—Foodgrains Control Order

In view of the decisions already reported to the Legislature that the Provincial Governments should frame their own Foodgrains Control Orders in the light of their own requirements and to suit local conditions but based on the existing Order, the Foodgrains Control Order, 1942, has with the concurrence of the Government of India, ceased to be in force in N.-W. F. P., Baluchistan, the Punjab, Assam, Madras and Coorg, where local orders have come into force simultaneously.

J.—Dehydrated Potatoes and Onions

19 factories have been selected from the existing factories in India to be remodelled for the production of dehydrated potatoes and onions for supply to the Defence Services during 1945. Two of the factories selected are Government factories operated by the U. P. Government. The remaining 17 factories are operated by contractors, with whom contracts have been negotiated in quantities appropriate to keep them working for seven months in the year, on the produce of Government growing schemes and surplus areas. Care was taken that these factories do not draw on supplies, essential for civilian consumption.

The remodelling has already been completed in three of the nineteen factories and the majority of them will come into production during this month.

K.—Dehydrated Meat.

At present the following six meat dehydration factories with a total capacity of 5 tons per day are working:—

1. Nowshera	1 ton per day.
2. Poona	1 ton per day.
3. Patna	1 ton per day.
4. Madras	1 ton per day.
5. Agra	$\frac{1}{2}$ ton per day.
6. Delhi	$\frac{1}{2}$ ton per day.

About four tons of dehydrated meat is being produced daily at these factories. Another factory at Anantapur is under construction.

Construction of two factories (one at Ranipet and the other at Amritsar) with one ton per day capacity, each for the manufacture of pre-cooked dehydrated minced mutton and meat, respectively has been taken in hand. Plant and machinery for these factories ordered from the United Kingdom is expected to arrive in this country shortly.

L.—Fruit Canning Factory, Nasarpur

The canning plant has been in production during this fruit season. In spite of the fact, that the factory was newly opened and the adverse weather condition reduced the quantity and quality of fruit, the factory was able to produce about 40 tons of canned pears and 46 tons of plums.

We are now arranging to produce 1,350 tons of canned fruit and 600 tons of canned tomatoes, from this plant during 1945.

Experiments are also being made, to establish whether canned potatoes can also be produced, and if the results are satisfactory, further progress in this line will be made.

M.—Deputation of Dr. B. C. Guha and Mr. M. L. Khanna

The question of current improvement and future development in industries processing foodstuffs has received constant attention.

Dr. B. C. Guha, D.Sc., Ph.D., Chief Technical Adviser and Mr. M. L. Khanna, B.Sc. (Engr.), Technical Adviser have been sent on deputation to the United Kingdom for a period of three months to investigate modern methods of food technology with special reference to dehydration of foodstuffs required for the Defence Services, including modern methods of packing.

Dr. Guha at the conclusion of his deputation in the United Kingdom will proceed to the United States of America along with Mr. Khanna to study fruit dehydration and quick freeze-process, as it is considered that their experience in this line would be of considerable value to India on their return.

N.—Establishment of Headquarters Laboratory of the Department of Food

It has been recognised for sometime past that it is essential to have a headquarters Laboratory of the Department of Food, where particular samples could be kept and reconstruction and storage tests could be performed under the direct supervision of the Technical staff. A Laboratory has consequently been set up and is working under the direct supervision of the Chief Technical Adviser who is assisted in his work by a Technical Adviser (Research), and two Chemists.

O.—Establishment of a Technical Panel in the Department of Food

It has been felt that in the various industries engaged on the production of processed foodstuffs for the Defence Services, a stage has now been reached when technical advice on the highest level should be readily and constantly available for current improvement and future development of the undertakings. This advice should comprehend not merely scientific but also nutritional, hygienic and agricultural aspects. It is accordingly considered necessary to establish a group of scientists as a technical panel to whom problems of improvement and development can be referred by the Chief Technical Adviser as and when he thinks collaborated opinion necessary. Action regarding the establishment of the Technical panel with Sir S. S. Bhatnagar as Chairman, eleven scientists as members and the Chief Technical Adviser as Secretary, is in train.

Throughout, the aim has been to improve the quality of processed foodstuffs, so that they satisfy more completely the requirements of Defence at present and the possible requirements of the civilian market when the Defence demand should be reduced in the future.

The possibility of establishing a factory manufacturing 3,000 tons of food yeast is being examined. An Engineer with technical qualifications has been placed on special duty to report within three months on the prospects of the proposed factory.

P.—Vanaspati Industry

An Inter-departmental Conference was held in September to discuss the future of the Industry and the possibilities of expansion. It was provisionally agreed that in order to meet the increasing demand the Industry should be rendered all the necessary assistance to increase its capacity by about 100,000 tons. 85 applications for assistance to import the required machinery from the existing as well as new parties have been received.

It has been decided to control the Vanaspati Industry on the same lines as Sugar, and an Advisory Committee consisting of the representatives of the industry has been elected. The Government of India have also decided to assist in the expansion and maintenance of the Oil Crushing Industry and to assist in the import of oil Expellers.

Q.—Command Co-ordination Committees for Foodstuffs

As the result of representations from certain Provincial Governments, the Government of India in the War Department requested all Provincial Governments and Administrations on 15th February 1944, to set up Purchase Co-ordination Committees for each Army Command for purposes of eliminating uncontrolled and unco-ordinated purchases of such items as fresh meat, fish, vegetables fowls, eggs, etc., for civilian as well as military consumption.

These Co-ordination Committees were required to consider the quality, quantity, price and sources of supplies with the main objects of—

- (a) checking price, inflation and competitive buying,
- (b) determining the sources of supply which should be tapped,
- (c) regulating consumption of supplies in such a manner as : (i) to protect animal breeding stocks, cows in milk and working bullocks used for agricultural and transport purposes, and (ii) to avoid depletion of seed requirements; and
- (d) taking suitable action to make good the deficit in supply.

Co-ordination Committees have been set up in all Commands with ancillary Sub-Committees in certain areas.

A Central Committee has also been constituted at New Delhi to co-ordinate the activities of the several Committees in the Commands of which the Secretary of the War Department is the Chairman.

The following indicates briefly the work and achievements of these bodies to date with particular reference to the four objects mentioned above.

On the military side, Deputy Assistant Directors of Local Purchase in all Commands, are now required to work in close contact with the civil authorities in regard to securing accurate information about the economic availabilities in their Districts. Each D. A. D. L. P. is also the sole authority for placing contracts for the military. The Food Department's contracts for goats; sheep and vegetables for dehydration factories will be concluded in consultation with the Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee acting on information from D. A. Ds. L. P.

The Committees have been emphasizing the need for surveys of resources. The U. P. and Madras Governments have taken measures to achieve this and it is expected that good progress in this direction has already been made in other Provinces as well; but the collection of complete statistics is expected to take time. In the meanwhile in the Central Command particularly the D. A. Ds. L. P. are collecting data to allow of the allocation and distribution of resources equitably.

The formation of these Committees has given an impetus to the execution of production plans undertaken by the Military as well as the Provincial Governments. The Central Command Plan includes the setting up of 15 mass production poultry farms estimated to produce $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of table birds a year. Two egg production farms have been planned which will produce one lakh eggs a year; in addition, there are about 50 military units likely to produce another five lakhs eggs a year. It is proposed to set up 17 pork production farms estimated to produce eight lakh lbs. of pork a year. Fresh vegetables weighing 15,000 maunds were handed over by military units to the R.I.A.S.C. during the 3 months March to May 1944. A vegetable farm of 500 acres is being established near Delhi. Similar production schemes have been put into operation in other units.

The deliberations of these Committees have also led to the Army doing its best to supplement local supplies by imports, e.g., frozen meat, tinned fish and dehydrated meat and vegetables. These measures are calculated to release more meat and vegetables for civilian consumption.

R.—Fifth All-India Food Conference

The fifth All-India Food Conference was held in New Delhi on the 29th January to 2nd February. It was attended by official representatives of the Provincial and State Governments. Problems relating to monopoly procurement, rationing, nutrition, production and distribution of fresh foods, movement and the Grow More Food Campaign were discussed. Copies of the resolutions passed by the Conference on these subjects are attached.

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD

Resolutions passed at the Fifth All-India Food Conference on subjects relating to Food Department.

I. (Procurement)

It is recommended that:

The results so far obtained in the working of monopoly procurement systems justify their further study, and their development so far as the circumstances of each Province and State permit.

Where monopoly procurement is in operation in respect of any particular grain, Government should, in the interest of producers, accept all such grain as is offered, subject to considerations of quality. Acceptance should be at notified centres, at the appropriate stages of the marketing process, and at prices fixed in accordance with the all-India policy after consultation, wherever necessary, with the Central Government.

The development of monopoly procurement should be in the direction of the acquisition by Government of grain offered for sale voluntarily. Nevertheless, in those areas where it is deemed advisable, monopoly procurement may be extended by:

(1) a compulsory levy and the acquisition, in addition, of any balance that any producer may desire to sell,

or (2) assessment of the surpluses of individual producers and the compulsory acquisition of such surpluses.

The Conference in making this recommendation recognises that the financial consequences of implementing the policy may necessitate assistance to the Provinces by the Central Government.

II. (Rationing)

It is resolved that:

The present burden of an over-all deficiency of foodgrains should be shared evenly by all parts of the country. With that object in view all Governments accept the following principles:—

(i) Full urban rationing should be introduced and extended in accordance with Recommendation 46 of the Foodgrains Policy Committee.

(ii) Until all deficit areas can be ensured sufficient supplies to enable them to sustain a basic ration of 1 lb. of cereals per adult per day, the size of the basic ration in any area should not exceed that quantity.

(iii) Extra provision should be made for heavy manual workers by means of a supplementary ration and in the form of cooked foods through industrial canteens.

(iv) In all rationing schemes the definition of a child should be from the date of birth to the age of 8.

III. (Nutrition)

It is resolved that:

(1) It is essential to improve the diet of the people, and to this end all Governments will undertake an examination of diets in their area, to determine in what respects they are defective and how the defects can best be made good. They will examine especially measures required to provide sufficient milk and other protective foods to the vulnerable section of the community.

(2) The introduction and popularisation of foodstuffs which should be added to the diet, or must be substituted for those in short supply, require persistent publicity and active encouragement, including arrangements for practical demonstrations of the preparation of unaccustomed foods.

(3) Use should be made of expert nutritional advice in guiding the policy of Central and Provincial food administrations.

(4) Large employers of labour should be given every encouragement by governments to provide canteens for the supply of wholesome cooked food to their labour.

IV. (*Fresh foods and other necessary Commodities*)

It is resolved that :

1. All Governments should furnish by the 1st of May, 1945, to the Government of India, and to the appropriate command Co-ordination Committees, in respect of eggs, poultry, fish, milch cattle, milk and milk products, goats, sheep, livestock, potatoes, seed potatoes, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, cooking oil and oil seeds, oil cake, fuel (wood and charcoal), the best possible estimate of :—

- (i) Local production,
- (ii) Target for increased local production attainable in 12 months.
- (iii) Local requirements (a) Civil; (b) Military (including dehydrating factories).
- (iv) Import requirements,
- (v) Normal sources of supply,
- (vi) Export surpluses,
- (vii) Normal export markets,
- (viii) Prices at main consuming and producing centres.

2. All Governments should also specify requirements, the present lack of which affect (a) production, (b) distribution of commodities referred to in (i), including minimum desirable provision of such requirements, (a) in the next 12 months, (b) in the next 3 years.

3. All Governments will examine the possibility of forming organised bodies of (a) producers, (b) traders, in respect of the commodities in (1), with a view to employing them as agents for planned and controlled procurement and distribution.

4. The Government of India, on receipt of the information to be supplied under (1) above, will examine how best they can afford all possible assistance to governments to increase production, ensure supplies and control distribution of any of these commodities.

V. (*Movement*)

It is resolved that :

(1) The movement of foodgrains ought to proceed smoothly so far as possible throughout the year. To this end the Central Government undertake, in respect of grains subject to the Basic Plan, to plan a constant movement throughout the year, so that the transport authorities may programme a regular supply of wagons. Provincial and State Governments for their part undertake, to the best of their ability in the case of surplus areas, to see that procurement keeps pace with the transport available and to provide storage for the balance; and, in the case of receiving areas, to send despatch instructions and make arrangements for inspection, so that the programme can be punctually observed.

(2) In the case of other foodgrains the Central Government should undertake :—

(a) To prepare a similar movement programme, with the same priorities as for foodgrains in (1) above to supply deficiencies declared by Governments out of surpluses declared by Governments.

(b) To co-ordinate the disposal of all other surpluses by means of authorised and assisted trade movements.

Resolutions passed at the 5th All-India Food Conference on subjects relating to E. H. & L. Department

Resolution No. I.

It is resolved that :

The campaign for growing more food should be continued with undiminished vigour in all areas, both surplus and deficit.

Resolution No. II.

Steps should be taken to ensure a market (or have an assured market) for food grains at fair prices wherever this is necessary to safeguard the interests of cultivator and ensure the success of the grow more food campaign. This may be done by the establishment of an adequate number of purchasing centres for the buying of the foodgrains offered at such centres at the prices fixed or otherwise.

Resolution No. III.

It is resolved that :

Special attention should be paid to increasing the production of protective foods such as vegetables and fruits, milk, eggs and fish and for this purpose Provinces and States should consider the desirability of :—

(1) encouraging the growing of vegetables in school gardens and villages for local consumption;

(2) appointing a Milk Development Officer in order to increase milk production in each province and, major State and taking steps to produce and provide adequate fodder and concentrates;

(3) setting up (a) large dairy farms or encouraging their establishment by private individuals or organisations in suitable areas by the grant of land and subsidies, (b) making proper arrangements for the salvage of dry city cows, and (c) regulating the inter-provincial movements of cattle from one area to another by suitable quotas to be arrived at regionally or centrally in consultation with the provinces and states concerned;

(4) Setting up poultry farms at suitable centres for the supply of cockerels to villages and providing them with incubators, and wire fencing and other facilities;

(5) encouraging (a) fish culture, (b) stocking of tanks with fingerlings, (c) supplying the requirements of fishermen in respect of fishing tackle and (d) providing trawlers, launches, ice and cold storage facilities for developing deep sea fishing.

Resolution No. IV.

It is resolved that :

- (a) the production of groundnuts in lieu of non-food crops should be encouraged in areas where suitable;
- (b) Inter-provincial movements of vegetable oils should be regulated by suitable quotas to be arrived at regionally or centrally in consultation with the provinces and states concerned;
- (c) exports from India should as far as possible be in the form of oil rather than that of oil seeds, and for this purpose additional crushing plant should be set up for crushing the whole of the oil seeds produced.

Resolution No. V.

It is resolved that :

Each province and major state should consider the desirability of appointing a Fertiliser Controller to conserve and promote its manurial resources by encouraging composting, extending the practice of green manuring, utilisation of bones and arranging for the equitable distribution at controlled prices of fertilisers, of the town waste and oilcakes produced in the area concerned bearing in mind the needs of cattle for concentrates.

Inter-provincial movements should be regulated by suitable quotas to be arrived at regionally or centrally in consultation with the provinces and states concerned.

Resolution No. VI.

It is resolved that :

(a) Facilities should be provided by the Central Government, where necessary, for the supply of :—

- (i) building materials for seed and manure depots,
- (ii) iron and steel for agricultural implements,
- (iii) tractors, and connected machinery,
- (iv) pumps and other machinery required for minor and emergency irrigation drainage and bunding works,
- (v) diesel oil, petrol, etc., needed for working such machinery and other requirements of rice mills.
- (vi) cold stores,
- (vii) the transport needed for seed, manures, etc.
- (b) Inter-provincial movements of seed potatoes, should be regulated by suitable quotas to be arrived at regionally or centrally in consultation with the provinces and states concerned.

Resolution No. VII.

It is resolved that :

(a) Provincial and State Governments should supply the Government of India so far as is possible with their programmes for the production of foods during the next two years, stating the figures of what they expect will result.

The Government of India will assess the nutritional needs of the country and consult with provinces how any gap between the needs and the programmed production can be reduced.

(b) The programme of facilities to be provided in the shape of seeds, manures, depots for seeds, manures and implements, irrigation works, drainage works, bunds, etc., to complete the programme should be worked out by the Governments concerned and schemes prepared to try and provide the same in so far as local resources as supplemented by the Centre permit.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I have answers to the specific questions that I have put? One thing that I want to know is whether procurement and distribution of foodgrains is in the hands of the Central Government or whether these powers have been delegated to the provinces?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already given the answer in part (c). I have said that there is no central machinery for procurement and distribution of foodgrains in Sind.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that there are inspectors and officers appointed by the Central Government to supervise the work of procurement and distribution of foodgrains in Sind?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir. We have no Inspectors.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Sind Food Purchase Board different in character as in name from the Syndicate?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, Sir. That is another organisation.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Non-official or official in character?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Non-official, I believe.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: You are not sure?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: So I believe. I cannot say definitely, but it is non-official.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

BAN ON BOMBAY SIKHS FOR RUNNING FREE KITCHEN ON GURU GOBIND SINGH'S BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

45. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state :

(a) whether the Government have received a copy of the resolution passed at the religious general gathering of Bombay Sikhs on Sunday, the 17th December under the auspices of Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Bandra, Bombay;

(b) whether it is a fact that a ban was imposed on running Guru's free kitchen even by contributing and pooling together individual ration quotas by Sikhs out of their domestic weekly rations;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as a protest against this ban the Sikhs abandoned all preparations for celebrating Guru Gobind Singh's birthday anniversary; and

(d) whether the Government will reconsider this question and instruct the Government of Bombay to permit the Sikhs in future on similar occasions to run Guru's free kitchen by contributing their individual rations?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government of India have no information.

(d) The general policy to be pursued is now under consideration.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member to state whether he will take into confidence the Members of this House belonging to the Sikh community who will throw greater light on this question than his office?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have no objection but this matter applies not only to the Sikhs but to all communities.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will you take into consideration other communities also when you decide about them?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The matter will go before the Central Advisory Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was this ban imposed in the interests of the general public?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The position has not been correctly understood. I might explain that the permission to distribute eatables to 50 or more persons would have involved the relaxation of the existing order banning distribution of eatables to more than 50 people at one party, whether it is religious or otherwise.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member if it is a fact that during last November, when the same question was raised before him about supplying food to the congregations here at Delhi he consulted the Sikh members and he learnt a great deal which he did not know about the Sikh religion at that time and then he sanctioned the quota?

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

†47. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Food Department mostly consists of non-Muslims?

(b) if the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, will Government bring Muslims in the Department to maintain the ratio of services?

(c) Is it a fact that there is only one Muslim Officer in this Department and that there are three or even more than three non-Muslim Officers in the Department?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(d) If the answer to (c) above is in the affirmative, are Government prepared to vacate some more posts for Muslim Officers?

(e) Is it a fact that some Muslims are driven out of the job due to no faults of theirs and that they are denied promotions and that these jobs have gone to non-Muslims?

(f) If the above are true facts, are Government prepared to enquire into the matter, and to place the Establishment Portfolio under some reliable Muslim Officer?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) 22·6 per cent. of the staff are Muslims.

(b) Every endeavour will be made to do so in the future as in the past.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

FOOD SITUATION IN BENGAL, MALABAR, ETC.

51. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the latest food situation in Bengal, Malabar, Cochin, Travancore and Vizagapatam;

(b) the ration of rice rationed in Cochin now as against 5½ ounces which he mentioned in the last session; and

(c) whether rice has been imported to strengthen our resources in the last three months; if so, how much?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) 8 ozs. per adult per day; but the ration is going to be raised to 12 ozs. per adult per day very shortly.

(c) If the Honourable Member is referring to imports of rice into India, the answer is in the negative.

Statement showing the latest food situation in Bengal, Malabar, Cochin Travancore and Vizagapatam.

Bengal.—After a record Aman crop last year Bengal had a normal crop this year. The procurement policy of the Bengal Government has been very successful and the Bengal Government have started the new year with large stocks in hand. Prices showed a steady and in some cases a very marked fall till the end of October, but have hardened to some extent during the last two months.

Malabar.—As a result of the arrival of special quotas from the Punjab and Sind, the stock position in Malabar has greatly improved. Under the scheme of district-wide rationing, 8 out of 9 taluqs have been rationed. The ration fixed is 12·4 ozs. per adult per day.

Travancore & Cochin.—The food position in the two States is fairly satisfactory. They have stocks of wheat sufficient to last until the end of April. Travancore has built up a substantial reserve of rice as well and has agreed to advance to Cochin 15,000 tons of rice from future imports. This has enabled Cochin to raise its rice ration to 8 ozs. per adult per day. The rice portion of the ration in Travancore has been raised from 9 to 9·5 ozs. per adult per day, the total cereal ration being 15·5 ozs. in Travancore and 12 ozs. in Cochin.

Vizagapatam.—The food position in Vizagapatam has considerably improved with the arrival of increased stocks from the Delta area, Orissa and the Central Provinces. A system of voluntary rationing has been introduced throughout the district. A rice ration of 8 ozs. per adult per day is issued in addition to other grains, which are not rationed.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the situation in Vizagapatam is really very bad and that there are famine conditions prevailing there?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The situation in Vizagapatam has recently improved considerably, I understand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the rations allowed for the rural areas of Vizagapatam been increased?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The rice ration today is 8 oz. per adult per day in addition to other grains.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (b), did the Honourable Member say that it would be increased to 12 oz.?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, in Cochin.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether in addition to this 12 oz. of rice what other grains are given and how much are they given?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I would like to have notice of that question. I have the information somewhere, but I cannot give it off-hand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to the Honourable Member's admission that in addition to other grains a ration of 8 oz. is being allowed, does he mean to say that the other grains are being supplied by Government or are the rural population expected to shift for themselves in obtaining whatever they can from black markets and otherwise?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I understand that the system of voluntary rationing has been introduced in the district. My Honourable friend knows the details better than I do probably.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The system of voluntary rationing only embraces the supply of 8 oz. of rice and not the supply of other grains.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It may be.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In that case, will the Government consider the advisability of procuring other grains also and rationing and distributing all the other grains so that poor people may get their proper share without having to resort to the black market?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will look into the matter further.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Is the statement too long to be read out? After all this is very important and we would like to know what the statement contains.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is rather long and it will take up much of the time of the House. I have no objection to read it out.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

INADEQUACY OF FOODGRAINS IN NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

53. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether representations have been made by the Government of the North-West Frontier Province about the inadequacy of foodgrains in the Province;

(b) if so, the nature of those representations;

(c) whether the Government of the North-West Frontier Province have urged the removal of restrictions on the movement of foodgrains from the Punjab into the North-West Frontier Province;

(d) whether the Hazara and Dera Ismail Khan Districts of the North-West Frontier Province suffer from shortage of foodgrains;

(e) whether foodgrains are exported from the North-West Frontier Province to the tribal areas; and

(f) the action taken by the Government of India to meet this scarcity, and whether the same has met the situation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They referred to a shortage of wheat and maize in the N.-W. F. P. and asked for assistance.

(c) Yes.

(d) They are usually deficit in the main foodgrains.

(e) Yes.

(f) The Government of India allotted 7,000 tons of maize to the N.-W. F. P. in 1944, and the wheat quota was raised from 23,000 tons to 36,000 tons as against the normal import of 28,000 tons. Supplies of wheat to Peshawar City were guaranteed from October to May to enable rationing to be introduced. Deliveries of wheat and maize were expedited. These measures restored the situation which is now reported to be satisfactory.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware of the very serious situation in Dera Ismail Khan where grain shops were closed and women have had to return empty handed?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have no report about it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that the wheat supplied contains an admixture of stones and other stuff quite unfit for human consumption? I have got sample with me which I can show the Honourable Member, if he likes.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of it. But if my Honourable friend will report any particular case to me, I will get it enquired into.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if it is a fact that the contractor engaged for grinding the wheat is interested in seeing that only *atta* is supplied and therefore bad wheat is being supplied intentionally? This is the report which I have received.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall make a note of the information supplied by my Honourable friend.

REPORT OF WOODHEAD COMMISSION ON BENGAL FAMINE

54. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether any report or recommendation has been made to the Government of India by the Woodhead Commission on the Bengal famine;

(b) if so, when the above was submitted, whether the same will be published, and the nature of the recommendations made therein; and

(c) whether he can give any idea as to when the other part or parts of the Commission's Report will be made public?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Certain recommendations have been made by the Commission on matters within their terms of reference which they considered it advisable to make in advance of their report. I regret that I am not prepared, at this stage, to disclose their nature more precisely nor to give any indication regarding publication.

(c) No, Sir, but the Commission hope to submit their Report on Bengal by the end of February and their final Report about two months later.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will an opportunity be given to this House to discuss the report of this Commission?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to say at the moment.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member in a position to give any idea about the probable time when this report is likely to be made?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already answered that.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I understood the Honourable Member to say that some portion of the report will be made in two months, when is the whole report expected?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have given my reply in answer to part (c). The final report is expected two months later, that is to say, two months after February.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I take it there has been an interim report making certain recommendations?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I had better read again my reply to part (c):

"No, Sir: but the Commission hope to submit their report on Bengal by the end of February and their final report about two months later."

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: What is the difference between the report to be submitted by the end of February and the final report to be submitted later on?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The first report will be on Bengal and the final report will cover the entire country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member give an opportunity to this House to discuss the food situation, especially in view of the discussions and the recommendations made at the recent Food conference at which only officials were present?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I thought the Assembly was rather tired of food debates.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I inform the Honourable Member that the Assembly is taking a very keen interest in the food situation and it would therefore like to have an early opportunity to discuss this subject.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

RICE AND ATTA DETERIORATED IN GOVERNMENT GODOWNS

58. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rice and *Atta* and their value which has rotted and decomposed and thus became unfit for human consumption in different Government godowns during the year 1944;

(b) whether the attention of the Honourable Member has been drawn to the following Associated Press news which appeared in the *Hindustan Standard* on the 2nd and 11th December, 1944, respectively:—

(i) about 8,000 maunds of *Atta* valued at Rs. 80,000 is lying in a decomposed condition in the Government Godown at Kamalaghat in Munshiganj Sub-division of the Dacca District; and

(ii) about 850 maunds of *Atta* so long rotting in one of the Government godowns in Noakhali town and several thousand maunds of decomposed *Atta* has similarly been rotting in the Government godowns at Chowmohani and other places; and

(c) how much money Government have spent since the formation of the Food Department for building godowns and stores for storing foodgrains and what is the total capacity of such stores?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (c). Information has been called for from the Provincial Governments and will be laid on the table of the House when received.

(b). Yes.

DISTRIBUTION OF RICE IN BIHAR COALFIELDS

71. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state what further information has been received in respect of my starred question 413(c) and question 413(e) of the last November session of the Assembly regarding the distribution of rice in Bihar coalfields?

(b) Is it a fact that although the Bihar Government has reduced the price of rice and agreed to charge the wholesale controlled rate plus four annas per maund for other charges for rice, with effect from November, 1944, the Joint Pool Authority at Jharia is still continuing to charge members at the old rate in spite of protests?

(c) Will an official enquiry be made into this question and orders passed for the refund of any excess amount charged from the different members of the Pool?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that a large number of mine-owners have protested against the present method of distribution of rice in the Bihar coalfields, and this practice of charging higher rates than the controlled rates, although the Indian Mining Association Rice Administrator has extended the benefit of the reduced rate to all its members?

(e) Have the Government decided finally on the question of the method of distribution of rice and foodgrains in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields through one Central organisation under Government supervision?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I understand that the deposits received from its members are utilised to finance the operations of the 'POOLS'. The deposit in each case is calculated on the basis of the monthly rice requirements at Rs. 15 per maund.

In one case a non-member was charged Re. 1 per md. extra for not making the required deposit.

(b) and (d). The Provincial Government has no information on this point.

(e) The Provincial Government have received no request for such an enquiry.

(e) From the administrative point of view the present method is the most convenient way of ensuring 100 per cent. supplies to Collieries and no change is considered necessary.

PRICE RATES OF RICE IN BENGAL DISTRICTS

73. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please refer to his statement to this House on November 8, 1944, on prices of rice in Bengal, and indicate if it is correct to assume that the rates quoted against certain districts relate to the headquarters of those districts and not necessarily to the interior?

(b) Has his attention been drawn to the Bengal Government notification regarding price of rice in the districts for the week ending November 1, 1944, published in the issue of the *Calcutta Gazette* of November 9, 1944?

(c) If so, is the Honourable Member aware (i) that in some cases the prices quoted by the Bengal Government for a corresponding period are not in conformity with those furnished by him, (ii) that in Midnapur the price of rice per maund, according to the Honourable Member's statement, is only Rs. 10-10-0 while the rate shown in the Bengal Government schedule is something between Rs. 13-0-11 and Rs. 13-14-7, (iii) that as regards Backerganj Rs. 10-8-0 per maund is the price stated whereas the Bengal Government's quotation is Rs. 12-1-2, (iv) that about Dacca, similarly, the Honourable Member's quotation is Rs. 9-8-0 or Rs. 10-0-0 per maund while the Provincial Government concerned gives it as Rs. 10-7-10 at headquarters and even Rs. 11-0-7 at two of its sub-divisions, Narayanganj and Munshiganj, (v) that for Tippera, again, the Honourable Member's rate is between Rs. 7-8-0 and Rs. 8-0-0 per maund whereas the Bengal Government's price is Rs. 9-8-10 per maund, and (vi) that the rate shown for Chittagong is from Rs. 10-0-0 to Rs. 12-0-0, but according to the Bengal Government this rate is between Rs. 5-15-8 and Rs. 8-0-0 per maund for the same period?

(d) Is it not a fact that since the Honourable Member furnished these rates, the price of rice has persistently gone up, particularly after the declaration of the Centre's decision to discontinue supply to Calcutta?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No, Sir, they relate to interior markets except in the case of Dacca and Bakerganj, which are for headquarters markets only and in the case of Tippera which are for both headquarters and interior markets.

(b) Yes.

(c) The prices given in the *Calcutta Gazette* are all retail rates, while the statement placed on the table of the House contained quotations of wholesale prices, except in the case of Jalpaiguri and Birbhum, for which the quotations shown were for retail prices. In the latter case, the figures are in agreement with those given in the *Calcutta Gazette*, referred to by the Honourable Member.

(d) No, Sir. In November the average of rice prices in Bengal declined. In December prices dropped in some districts and remained stationary in others, but there was an increase of Re. 1/2/- in the overall wholesale price average, from Rs. 11/3/- to Rs. 12/5/- per maund for coarse rice.

PRICE RATES OF RICE IN BENGAL DISTRICTS

74. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Has the Honourable the Food Member's attention been drawn to a United Press message, dated December 21, 1944, giving (as published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of December 24, 1944) a joint statement of the President, Munshiganj Bar Association, a Congress leader, and certain office bearers of the local Relief Committee, Food Committee, Krishak Samity and Muslim League, to the effect that the price of rice there had been soaring up since the India Government decided to withdraw its responsibility to supply foodgrains for greater Calcutta, and that the price which came down to Rs. 9-0-0 in November was between Rs. 16-0-0 and Rs. 21-0-0 per maund in December and was daily rising by four annas to eight annas per day?

(b) Has the Honourable Member's attention been also drawn to an Associated Press message, dated Dacca, December 9, 1944, featured in the issue of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of December 17, saying that the Working Committee of the Dacca Relief Committee adopted a resolution (i) regretting that the Honourable the Food Member, Government of India, should have made a statement, as appearing in the Press, to the effect that the highest recorded price of rice at Dacca was Rs. 12-0-0 per maund while actually the price was much higher, and (ii) that the statement of the Food Member was inaccurate and misleading?

(c) If the answer to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member lay on the table of the House a comprehensive statement fully explaining the position in this matter?

- The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b) and (c). Yes, Sir. I have placed on the table a statement of prices which brings up to date my statement of last November. As to the statement of the working committee of the Dacca Relief Committee, it is not correct to say that I had quoted Rs. 12/- per maund as the highest recorded price at Dacca; all I said was that Rs. 12/- per maund was the highest price during the month.

Date	Dacca		Date	Dacca	
	As per district authority (Coarse rice) (Wholesale)	Calcutta Gazette (Common rice) (Retail)		As per district authority (Coarse rice) (Wholesale)	Calcutta Gazette (Common rice) (Retail)
	Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.	
1-11-44 . . .	9 8 0		16-11-44 . . .	...
2-11-44 . . .	9 8 0		17-11-44 . . .	10 8 0	
3-11-44 . . .	9 8 0		18-11-44 . . .	12 0 0	
4-11-44 . . .	10 0 0	Week ending 8th Nov. 1944 Rs. 11-0-7.	19-11-44 . . .	12 0 0	
5-11-44 . . .	10 0 0		20-11-44 . . .	11 0 0	Week ending 22nd Nov. 1944. Rs. 13-1-0.
6-11-44 . . .	10 0 0		21-11-44 . . .		
7-11-44 . . .	10 0 0		22-11-44 . . .	10 8 0	
8-11-44 . . .	10 0 0		23-11-44 . . .	12 0 0	
			24-11-44 . . .	12 0 0	

Date	Dacca		Date	Dacca	
	As per district authority (Course rice) (Wholesale)	Calcutta Gazette (Common rice) (Retail)		As per district authority (Course rice) (Wholesale)	Calcutta Gazette (Common rice) (Retail)
	Rs. a. p.			Rs. a. p.	
9.11.44 . . .	10 0 0		26.11.44 . . .	12 0 0	
10.11.44 . . .	10 0 0		27.11.44 . . .	11 0 0	
11.11.44 . . .	10 0 0		28.11.44 . . .	11 0 0	
12.11.44 . . .	...	Week ending 15th Nov. 1944 Rs. 11-6-10.	29.11.44 . . .	...	Week ending 29th Nov. 1944. Rs. 12-1-2.
13.11.44 . . .	11 0 0				
14.11.44 . . .	11 0 0				
15.11.44 . . .	10 8 0		30.11.44 . . .	11 0 0	
25.11.44 . . .	11 0 0				

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, TO DISCONTINUE SUPPLY OF RICE TO CALCUTTA

75. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state whether the Central Government's decision to discontinue supply of rice to Calcutta was arrived at after consultation with the Government of Bengal?

(b) What opinion, if any, was expressed by the Government of Bengal on the matter after this decision was announced?

(c) Is it a fact that several representations on this issue have been made by the Government of Bengal to the Central Government? If so, will the Honourable Member please make a detailed statement giving the substance of these representations as also indicating the action taken on them?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of Bengal intimated some time ago that there was a surplus stock of rice in the Province which they were in a position to export from Bengal? If so, will the Honourable Member please make a detailed statement on this proposal?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Honourable Member in his question does not correctly describe the decision which was announced during the last Session of the Legislature and publicly repeated by me at a Press Conference, but it is a fact that the Government of Bengal were informed of our intention before it was made.

(b) and (c). No representation has been received from the Bengal Government.

(d) No sir, the Government of Bengal have not declared any surplus in rice.

DECOMPOSED ATTA IN DACCA GOVERNMENT GODOWN

79. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is not a fact that 42,000 maunds of decomposed *atta* lying in the Government godown in Dacca has been recommended by the District Food Committee?

(b) Why was it allowed to decompose?

(c) For how long was it kept stocked?

(d) Are the Government of India aware of the shortage of *atta* in several parts of India during the years 1943 and 1944?

(e) Is it not a fact that the same material was offered for sale by the Government?

(f) Is it not a fact that the Civil Supplies Department invited tenders for the purchase of the stock at a reduced rate?

(g) Is it not a fact that no purchaser came forward?

(h) Would the Government of India take necessary steps to stop the sale of such stuff for consumption by the civilian public?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Bengal Government, and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

†TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWERS

Wednesday, 14th February, 1945

Written Answers

FOODGRAINS REQUIREMENTS OF INDIA

152. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

- (a) the approximate amount of foodgrains necessary for this country as a whole;
- (b) how much has been grown in the present financial year;
- (c) the annual wastage of foodgrains according to the calculation of Government; and
- (d) what steps have been taken by the Government to avoid this wastage?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I can answer the Honourable Member's question in two ways. Calculated on the basis of a cereal ration (excluding gram and pulses) of 1 lb. per adult per day and allowing for seed and wastage, the requirements in 1945 would be about 62 million tons. On the other hand, before the war the average annual consumption requirements of cereals calculated by adding average *net* imports to average production including minor millets was about 54·5 million tons.

(b) I have not yet complete information about the *Kharif* harvest but the total yield of *rabi* and *kharif* grains excluding gram and pulses but including minor millets is likely to be about 54·5 million tons.

(c) It is not possible to give a reliable estimate of wastage but it would vary between 3 and 4 per cent., i.e., between 1·6 to a little over 2 million tons.

(d) We are encouraging and helping Governments to improve and expand their storage for foodgrains and are building ourselves and helping private merchants to build. The substance of technical advice on the subject has been embodied in a Manual which has been placed in the Library of the House.

FOODSTUFFS OFFICIALLY DECLARED UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IN BENGAL

181. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Is the Honourable the Food Member in a position to give an approximate idea about the total quantity of foodstuffs that have so far been officially declared to be unfit for human consumption in Bengal?

(b) How much of the quantity approximately has been destroyed, and how much sold, with the concurrence or knowledge of officials concerned, and to what use has the latter category of foodstuffs been put or is expected to be put, and what precautions have been taken to see that this latter category of foodstuffs is not utilised as human food either in the shape of adulterants or otherwise?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Bengal Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

SUBSIDIZED SALES OF WHEAT IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

186. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact—

(i) that in Madras Presidency and in particular in South Arcot District subsidized wheat is being sold at a price which is lower than the price of inferior quality of rice produced in that area;

†The meeting of the Legislative Assembly that was to be held on the 13th February, 1945, having being cancelled, the answers to the unstarred Question for that day was, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House to-day.—*Ed. of D.*

(ii) that such subsidized wheat is being consumed and can be consumed under the present conditions mostly by the richer and middle classes, benefiting not the poorer classes;

(iii) that such enforced and subsidized sales of wheat are depressing the prices of paddy and rice of the area concerned; and

(iv) that such a policy is benefiting consumers of both rice and wheat and harming the producers of paddy, irrespective of their economic conditions; and

(b) whether Government will consider the advisability of subsidizing rice of the lowest quality which is generally consumed by the poorest people instead of subsidizing wheat; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) Yes, Sir.

(ii) No, Sir. Wheat is being subsidised especially to bring its price within the reach of the poor.

(iii) No, Sir.

(iv) The inference is not correct.

(b) Retail prices of rice are reasonable and it is not considered necessary to subsidise them. To subsidise rice will increase the demand for a commodity already in short supply.

KEEPING LOWER PRICES OF PADDY AND RICE IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY

187. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact—

(i) that the Madras Government has not raised the prices of paddy and rice of the Krishna, West and East Godavari and Nellore Districts and have kept them down to the uneconomic level of Rs. 10-8-0 for the ordinary quality of rice (Chinna Kusuma) even though, for Guntur District, it has been raised to its former level of Rs. 11-0-0 per 166 lbs. of paddy without the sack and excluding carting expenses; and

(ii) that this policy has been adversely affecting the poorer peasants who are obliged to sell their paddy at the prevalent lower prices in order to pay the land revenue, rent and meet cultivation expenses; and

(b) whether Government propose to see that a uniform price policy is pursued in all the surplus paddy districts and that the former net price of Rs. 11 is re-instated as an initial piece of justice?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) The answer is in the negative.

The same prices have been fixed for Krishna, West and East Godavari and Nellore Districts as for Guntur District.

(ii) No, Sir. The Madras Government report that prices were fixed with due regard to the increase in the cost of cultivation or other relevant factors.

(b) Does not arise, in view of answer to (a).

Monday, 19th February, 1945

†TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) Written Answers

MEAT DEHYDRATION FACTORY AT NOWSHERA

293. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the date on which the Meat Dehydration Factory was set up at Nowshera, North-West Frontier Province;

(b) the number of animals which are being slaughtered daily there;

(c) whether the meat prices at Peshawar have shot up in consequence;

†The meeting of the Assembly that was to be held on the 16th February, 1945, having been cancelled, the answers to Starred Questions for that day were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House to day.—*Ed. of D.*

(d) whether this factory constitutes a serious encroachment on the food of the Pathans; and

(e) the steps he proposes to take to bring down the meat prices in the North-West Frontier Province?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The factory commenced working in April, 1948.

(b) About 600 goats.

(c) Meat prices in Peshawar have increased in proportion to general rise in the cost of living.

(d) No; the demand has been reduced since last year by one half of it being placed on the neighbouring Punjab districts.

(e) The Central Government has established co-ordination committees to reduce prices by eliminating competition between Defence and Civil Purchases.

BUTLER REPORT ON FOODGRAINS PROCUREMENT

296. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

whether any steps have been taken or are about to be taken to implement the Butler Report:—

(i) in the matter of monopoly procurement of foodgrains;

(ii) elimination of corruption from the food control administration; and

(iii) petty harassment by minor officials; and

if so, the nature of the steps taken or proposed to be taken?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (i) The monopoly procurement of foodgrains, was discussed, with special reference to the Honourable Somerset Butler's Report, at the recent Fifth All-India Food Conference. A copy of the recommendation passed by the Conference is placed on the table of the House. The Government of India will encourage the study and development of monopoly procurement systems by Local Governments, as therein recommended.

(ii) and (iii). The question of bribery and corruption within Food Administrations and that of petty harassment by minor officers has been referred to all Administrations for their closest consideration and examination. The introduction of a Vigilance branch or section into the Administration, and the close association of non-officials have been recommended as the best means of reducing bribery, corruption and petty harassment.

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD FIFTH ALL-INDIA FOOD CONFERENCE

Resolution on Procurement

It is recommended that :

The results so far obtained in the working of monopoly procurement systems justify their further study, and their development so far as the circumstances of each Province and State permit.

Where monopoly procurement is in operation in respect of any particular grain, Government should, in the interest of producers, accept all such grain as is offered, subject to considerations of quality. Acceptance should be at notified centres, at the appropriate stage of the marketing process, and at prices fixed in accordance with the all-India policy after consultation, wherever necessary, with the Central Government.

The development of monopoly procurement should be in the direction of the acquisition by Government of grain offered for sale voluntarily. Nevertheless, in those areas where it is deemed advisable, monopoly procurement may be extend by :

(1) a compulsory levy and the acquisition, in addition, of any balance that any producer may desire to sell; or

(2) assessment of the surplus of individual producers and the compulsory acquisition of such surpluses.

The Conference in making this recommendation recognises that the financial consequences of implementing the policy may necessitate assistance to the Provinces by the Central Government.

BUTLER REPORT ON FOODGRAINS PROCUREMENT

297. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether the Butler Report on Foodgrains procurement has been published; and

(b) whether copies of it will be supplied to the members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) Two copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS TO LIBERATED BURMA

305. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state whether there is any understanding that, as the process of re-conquest of Burma progresses the civilian population thus liberated will be supplied with foodstuffs from India as a temporary measure of relief?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a detailed statement explaining the nature and extent of the responsibility thus undertaken by the Government of India with reference to the civil population of Burma, indicating at the same time the nature of help that may already have been given to the people of Burma in this matter, as also the reaction that the said policy may have on the position of supplies available for the civilian population in India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

CONSTRUCTION OR RECONDITIONING OF BOATS REMOVED FROM COASTAL AREAS OF BENGAL UNDER DENIAL POLICY

306. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to refer to starred question No. 136 of the 7th November, 1944, on the subject of construction or reconditioning of boats removed from the coastal areas of Bengal under the Denial Policy, and make a statement indicating the number of boats that were either reconditioned, or constructed anew and supplied to the persons concerned before the last rains, as also the progress made in that matter since the last rains?

(b) Is the Honourable Member in a position to state what has been the cost of reconditioning or reconstruction of these boats, and to what head the expenditure involved is to be charged?

(c) Is the Honourable Member in a position to state the extent of unemployment created by the Denial measures in this behalf, giving the approximate number of persons thus affected and the extent of compensation, if any, that the Government have paid or propose to pay for such unemployment and resulting hardship, to the people thus affected, apart from the return of a proportion of the boats?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: This question should have been addressed to the Defence Department.

POSSIBILITY OF ARMY IN BENGAL SUPPLYING VEGETABLES FOR MILITARY AND CIVILIAN REQUIREMENTS

307. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to refer to the supplementary questions and answers in connection with starred question No. 49 of the 2nd November, 1944, dealing with the possibility of the Army in Bengal becoming self-supporting in vegetables, including potatoes and being able even to supply such stuff to the civilian population?

(b) Is the Honourable Member in a position to state the results of the efforts made by the military authorities in this direction, and the extent of help derived therefrom, either directly or indirectly, by the civilian population of Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). The Army in Bengal is self-supporting in respect of vegetables and potatoes.

During January 1945, 92 tons of vegetables were supplied by the Army to the Civil Administration in Bengal. A large proportion of this supply was for consumption in the Calcutta Area.

BUTLER REPORT ON FOODGRAINS PROCUREMENT

318. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state what action has been taken by the Government of India on the report of Mr. S. Butler, Officer on Special Duty, in connection with the Government Grain Purchases Scheme?

(b) If action has been taken, how many offenders were already detected and punished Province-wise? If not, why not?

(c) Are there any orders issued by the Central Government to the Provincial Governments to investigate into the offences of bribery, corruption and harassment by the Government Officials in Food Department working in the Provinces?

(d) If so, what are the results of their investigation, province-wise?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the reply given by me this morning to Mr. Abdul Qaiyum's question No. 296.

(b) and (d). It is premature to call for a report from the Provinces on the action taken by them in this connection.

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS AND PULSES

319. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the quantity of the following foodgrains and pulses produced in India in the year 1944, province-wise, in tons (i) Paddy, (ii) Wheat, (iii) Jawar, (iv) Ragi, (v) Bajra, and (vi) Makkai (Maize); and

Pulses: (i) Red Gram, (ii) Green Gram, (iii) Bengal Gram, (iv) Black Gram, and (v) Horse Gram?

(b) What quantities of the above commodities were exported to countries outside India, province-wise, in tons?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Two statements giving the necessary information are laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT 1

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS

(Rabi grains relate to 1943-44 crops and Kharif grains and pulses relate to 1944-45 crops)
(In '000 tons)

Province/State	Rice	Wheat	Jowar	Bajra	Maize	Ragi	*Red Gram	*Green Gram	Bengal Gram	*Black Gram	Horse Gram
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Ajmer-Merwara	Negligible	10	9	...	13	...	...	1	5	5	...
Assam	1,014	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	30	...
Baluchistan	10	49	19	...	N. A.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bengal	9,748	51	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	...	...	...	114	...	...
Bihar	2,628	453	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	...	125	...	452	...	...
Bombay	784	270	492	478	42	...	104	12	80	27	...
C. P. & Berar	1,716	373	1,052	32	08	3	95	16	181	26	...
Coorg	N. A.	...	...	...	N. A.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Delhi	N. A.	11	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	...	...	45	8	...	...
Madras	4,427	...	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	...	36	...	12	31	...
N. W. F. P.	N. A.	246	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	...	2	2	14	4	...
Orissa	1,375	2	8	1	10	...	...	...	2	...	...
Punjab	N. A.	8,408	123	546	538	...	...	32	842	32	...
Sind.	556	443	131	176	N. A.	...	...	1	74	2	...
U. P.	1,533	2,525	506	540	963	...	...	...	1,472	...	...
Total Br. Provinces	24,400	7,838	2,340	1,780	1,634	3	362	111	3,256	147	...
Total Indian States	(a) 1,660	1,901	(a) 582	N. A.	N. A.	...	(a) 61	(a) 75	(a) 61	(a) 62	...
GRAND TOTAL	26,060	9,739	(a) 2,922	(a) 1,780	(a) 1,634	(a) 3	(a) 426	(a) 186	3,317	(a) 209	...

N. A. = Not available.

(a) = Incomplete.

* = These estimates are supplied by areas concerned and are incomplete.

STATEMENT II

Showing Exports of Food Grains by Sea outside India during January to November 1944
(IN TONS)

Maritime Province (1)	Rice (2)	Wheat (3)	Wheat Flour (4)	Pulses (5)
Bengal	31	Nil	Nil	2
Bombay	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,908
Sind	3	450	622	1,855
Madras	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not known . . . . .	...	...	...	7,158
Total	34	450	622	10,923

Note.—Figures for October and November 1944 are estimated published figures being not yet available.

FALL IN AREA AND YIELD OF PADDY IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

321. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that the area under and yield of paddy in Madras Presidency has come down during the last two years;

(b) the percentages of fall in area and yield;

(c) the reasons attributed by Madras Government for this reduction in area and yield in spite of all the "Grow More Food Campaign" of the Government; and

(d) whether Government have taken necessary steps to enquire to what extent the continued low levels of prices of paddy and rice, maintained by Government as compared to prices for the same qualities of paddy and rice, have been responsible for this fall in the production of food in the Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). A statement showing the area and yield of rice for the years 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 is laid on the Table of the House. It will be seen therefrom that there was an increase in area by 5.2 per cent. and in yield by 6.9 per cent. in 1943-44 as compared with the previous year.

So far as the 1944-45 crop is concerned, only the second (Provincial) forecast is available, and it shows, when compared with the corresponding forecast of 1942-43, an increase of 1.8 per cent. in area and 5.7 per cent. in yield. Compared with the corresponding forecast of 1943-44, however, there is a decrease of 2.2 and 4.5 per cent. in area and yield respectively.

(c) The decrease, this year, is attributed by the Madras Government to the late arrival of the North East Monsoon rains and the insufficient rainfall and consequent inadequate supply of water in irrigating sources in the South West Monsoon period.

(d) In view of reply to part (c) of the question, the need for such an enquiry does not arise.

Statement showing area and yield of rice in Madras

(Figures in thousands)

Year	Area (acres)	Yield (Tons)
1942-43	10,382	4,614
1943-44	10,925	4,932
1944-45	9,313	4,427
(Second forecast)		

HOLDINGS BASIS FOR DELIVERY OF GRAIN BY PEASANTS IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

322. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware of the fact that in Madras Presidency peasants are forced to deliver certain specified quantities of grain, whether paddy or millets, calculated on the basis of the holdings and not on the actual acreages under the specified foodgrains; and

(b) whether this procedure obtains in other Provinces also?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). As regards Madras the system referred to by the Honourable Member is no longer in force. Details of the systems in force elsewhere will be found in the Honourable Somerset Butler's report which is available in the Library.

OVER-ESTIMATION OF CROPS YIELDS AND UNDER-ESTIMATION OF FOOD NEEDS IN DISTRICTS

323. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to prevent the over-estimation of the productive capacity and actual yields of different crops of different districts and the underestimation of the total population and their food needs of different districts by Government officials; and

(b) whether Government propose to see that their Regional Food Commissioners are authorised and instructed to study the food needs, food supply capacity and actual food production and distribution in every District in co-operation with the local authorities?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I have no information about steps taken in particular districts, but crop cutting surveys are being conducted in certain provinces for the purpose of ensuring a greater accuracy in the estimation of the production of rice and wheat. Regarding the estimation of the total population and their food needs, the formula stated in the Foodgrains Policy Committee Report is applied for ascertaining provincial requirements with appropriate adjustments for estimated increase in population over the last census figure.

(b) Regional Food Commissioners are officers of the Central Government and as such their duties require them to be in the closest touch with the food position in their Regions and to report on the position with a view to improvement, wherever necessary, both to the Provincial and Central Governments.

RICE AND WHEAT RATIONS IN RATIONED TOWNS AND NON-RATIONED AREAS

324. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of daily rations of rice plus wheat allotted and distributed to the people of the rationed towns and non-rationed areas;

(b) if there is any difference in the rations thus allotted, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is not a fact that in the non-rationed areas, black markets prevail;

(d) whether under-nourishment is increasing;

(e) whether the incidence of diseases due to under-nourishment and malnutrition is not increasing;

(f) whether Government are contemplating the introduction of complete District-wise rationing in the whole of North Vizagapatam District including rural areas; if not, why not;

(g) if such District-wise rationing is being contemplated, by about what month it may come to be introduced; and

(h) in view of the heavy death-roll experienced during last year's Summer, whether Government propose to introduce rationing before Summer sets in?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Assuming that this question relates to the Madras Province, the daily basic rations in the rationed towns range from 0.78 lbs. to 1.06 lbs. per adult per day, 1/6th of which is in wheat.

No rationed foods on a fixed scale are issued in non-rationed areas, but in certain areas, under informal schemes the rates vary from place to place at the discretion of the local authorities, depending upon the local supply position.

(c) Black markets do occur in non-rationed areas.

(d) and (e). I have received no reports to this effect.

(f), (g) and (h). Arrangements for the introduction of informal rationing in the rural areas of the deficit districts, are in progress and will be completed as early as possible. Informal rationing in the Vizagapatam District has already been introduced and as a matter of course will be made formal.

Wednesday, 21st February, 1945

PUNJAB GOVERNMENTS REQUEST *re* BISCUIT FACTORY

411. *Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (on behalf of **Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad**): (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of the Punjab requested the Government of India to place one of the biscuit factories in one of the districts of the Punjab?

(b) Will Government lay on the table of the House all the correspondence and figures supplied by the Punjab Government or by the Director of Industries on behalf of the Punjab Government in support of their request?

(c) Why was it given to a person who had no experience of biscuit-making?

(d) Where was this factory located?

(e) Is it not a fact that the factory was located in the corner of an Indian State?

(f) Was it not placed there on account of the fact that they wanted to avoid income-tax?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) If the Honourable Member is referring to a biscuit plant imported from the U. S. A. in 1943, the existing biscuit manufacturing firms were not interested owing to the size of the plant. It was therefore offered to a firm who had considerable experience in erecting and operating large factories.

(d) Rajpura (Patiala State).

(e) Yes.

(f) No.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the answer to part (c) really correct? Is it or is it not a fact that it was given to a person with no experience of this?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The existing manufacturing concerns were not interested in the plant.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Does that mean that the person to whom it was given had no experience of this?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: In answer to part (c) he said that the other manufacturers were not interested. Was the thing advertised? Or how does he satisfy himself that the others were not interested?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We know the existing biscuit manufacturing concerns. We asked them and they were not interested.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Why did not the Government of India themselves start the biscuit factory instead of giving it to people with no experience?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They have experience of biscuit eating and not biscuit making.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): With regard to Dr. Zia Uddin's question, has Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan had any written authority from Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes, I had.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should have made it over to the office.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: All right I will do it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question?

PAUCITY OF SIKHS IN HIGHER POSTS OF FOOD DEPARTMENT

†414. **Sardar Mangal Singh**: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the percentages of Anglo-Indians, Parsees, Indian Christians and Sikhs in the gazetted and higher posts in his Department?

(b) What steps do Government contemplate to make up the deficiency in the share of the Sikhs? If none, why?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement showing the relative shares of minority communities in the gazetted posts is placed on the table.

(b) There is no deficiency in the share of the Sikhs, who hold more than 50 per cent. of the posts reserved for minority communities.

Statement showing percentage of Minority Communities, e.g., Anglo-Indians, Indian Christians, Parsees and Sikhs in the Gazetted posts in the Department of Food as it stood on 1st February 1915.

	Number of posts	Number of posts filled up	Number of posts out of col. 3 reserved for minority communities.	Number filled up by Sikhs	Ratio per cent. of column 4 to 3	Number filled up by Parsees	Ratio per cent. of column 6 to 3	Number filled by Indian Christians	Ratio per cent. of column 8 to 3	Number filled up by Anglo-Indians	Ratio per cent. of column 10 to 3
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
D. F. I. & II	94	85	7 1/3	4	54.5			1	13.6		
D. F. III	156	122	10	5	50	3	30	2	20	1	10
Total	250	207	17 1/3	9	52.1	3	17.3	3	17.3	1	5.8

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

POLICY re ENCOURAGING MONOPOLISTS IN COMMODITY MARKETS

424. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga**: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is the policy of Government to encourage monopolists in the commodity markets of the country; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the question of a departmental enquiry to study how far their war-time trade regulation, licensing and price fixation and regulation and fixation of zones of supply and demand have worked towards the development of black-markets prevalence of abnormal middlemen's profiteering, exploitation of both producers and consumers and to what extent the expeditious and productive supply of commodities has been facilitated?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) So far as foodgrains are concerned the Government of India are in favour of monopoly procurement by Government, so far as the circumstances of each province permit.

(b) No Sir, but these matters are drawing the attention of the Food Department, as well as of the various Committees, which have been set up to advise the Department on the various problems of food administration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Pending the Development of the Government themselves taking up the monopoly of procurement, how many Provincial Governments have taken up such a monopoly? Is it the policy of the Government to encourage monopolies in the procurement of foodgrains in the Provinces? I mean private monopoly, not Government monopoly.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is no complete Government monopoly just now anywhere excepting perhaps in one or two Indian States. Is the Honourable Member referring to Madras?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I refer to Madras and the Central Provinces also.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is no complete monopoly anywhere. In Madras also there is no complete monopoly.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the system operating now, if there is no complete monopoly?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He does not know.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Procurement is by traders acting on behalf of the Government and appointed as agents for definite areas.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it not true that they have monopolies for those areas?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a matter for argument.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If only particular traders are appointed for particular areas, is it not true that other people cannot procure or sell grain in those areas?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We want to eliminate competition: that is our policy. We do not want to have competition in the procurement of food grains.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (b) the Honourable Member said that they did not propose to re-examine the whole question which means that the Honourable Member proposes to allow the black market to go on as they have been going on?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I did not say that I did not propose to do anything: I said these matters are continually receiving the attention of the Food Department.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know if in spite of this continual attention the black market has been going on and yet the Honourable Member is not prepared to look into the whole thing as one scheme?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We are looking into it every day—day and night.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: And this is the result of all this examination!

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask the Honourable Member whether these private agents are procuring foodstuffs for themselves or for the Government of India or a Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: For the Government of Madras in this case.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That is, they are agents for the Government of Madras. They are not procuring for themselves?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that when Government authorise certain individuals alone to purchase foodgrains in any one or two districts or particular parts of a province, and competition is completely shut out and no minimum prices are fixed, there is no check at all in the drop in prices through exploitation of the peasants?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But the Honourable Member is prepared to answer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can argue that at the proper time.

PLANS FOR SUPPLY ZONES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, ETC.

425. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have got worked out any consistent plans for different Provinces and co-ordinated plans for the whole of India for the zones of supply of different agricultural produce, their despatch to specified markets within the same and outside provinces; the margins of differences of prices to be permitted and margins that actually obtain between the prices paid to peasants who supply them and those charged in the consuming markets;

(b) if Government have any administrative machinery to examine how the prices paid for the same commodities, first to the producers and next by ultimate consumers vary from Province to Province, even from District to District both at the end of suppliers and also at that of the consumers;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to minimise the wide disparities that have come to prevail in the prices paid to producers of different Districts and charged to consumers of different Districts;

(d) whether it is not advisable to get requisite charts worked out to show within what ranges the suppliers' prices and consumers' prices are allowed to vary; and

(e) whether Government propose to hold a scientific and departmental enquiry into the whole matter in order to give greater satisfaction to both producers and consumers and minimise middlemen's profits?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Honourable Member will realise that I am chiefly concerned with agricultural produce that is used for food. The prices of the principal foodgrains are co-ordinated by the Government of India and are fixed in consultation with the Price Advisory Committee and with Provincial Governments. On the distribution side inter-provincial movements are controlled in accordance with allocations made by the Government of India under the Basic Plan. Retail prices are fixed by the Provincial Governments on the basis of the over-all holding costs of the grains available to them for distribution from internal and external sources. In order to improve the co-ordination and control of prices and movement in respect of the fresh and protective foods a resolution was put to and adopted by the Fifth Food Conference, a copy of which was laid on the table of the House of the 9th February, 1945 and I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to its terms. I will consider the Honourable Member's suggestion regarding the use of charts to display the information received regarding prices. The whole question of agricultural prices in its long term aspect is being examined by a sub-committee of the Policy Committee on Agricultural Forestry and Fisheries set up by the E. H. and L. Department. In so far as subsidisation of food may be involved that question also is being examined in all its aspects by an Inter Departmental Committee recently appointed by the Food Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are being taken by Government to see to the distribution and movement of foodgrains as between different districts within the same province? The Honourable Member said that they have a system by which they allocate foodgrains as between the different provinces—surplus and deficit; but within the same province, what steps are taken to see that an equitable system is followed?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is a provincial matter—a domestic matter for the province.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the Government of India is not interested at all whether within the provinces are being

starved because they happen to be deficit districts and the Provincial Government is unable to supply them with the necessary foodgrains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, we are interested; but I am not able to supply the information because there are different systems in different provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any effort been made to study and co-ordinate them so as to evolve a regulated policy for it?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a provincial matter.

ASSISTANT RATIONING ADVISER

444. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the functions and duties of the Assistant Rationing Adviser;
- (b) his nationality, educational and other qualifications;
- (c) his present salary and the salary drawn by him before he joined the Food Department of the Government of India; and
- (d) whether the post was advertised; if not, on whose recommendations he was appointed?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(d) The post was not advertised, but was filled by the transfer of an officer with the required qualifications, who was already employed in Food Department.

Statement.

(a) The functions and duties of the Assistant Rationing Adviser are to assist the Rationing Adviser in all matters relating to rationing technique and especially as regards:

(1) examination of—and when necessary—preparation of—rationing schemes in Provinces and States;

(2) assistance in the actual operation of such schemes, chiefly in the Centrally Administered areas and States;

(3) the training of Food Executive Officers, and staff of the Rationing Branch;

(4) compilation of a training syllabus and the revision of the Manual on Food Control and Rationing; and

(5) production of the monthly publication "Nutrition" and the quarterly publication of "Canteens in Industry" issued by the Food Department.

(b) He is a British subject, and was educated at Emanuel School, London.

He is a permanent local Government officer employed by the Royal Borough of Kensington.

His services were lent to the Ministry of Food in September, 1939 and he was appointed Assistant Divisional Food Officer (Rationing) for the London Division, comprising the City of London and Greater London, with a total population of 7,000,000.

In April, 1943, he was released for joining the Royal Air Force and was posted to administrative duties in India.

In March, 1944, he was released from the Royal Air Force to assist the Regional Food Commissioner, Eastern Region under the Government of India and was appointed Deputy Regional Food Commissioner on Rs. 1,000 per mensem.

(c) Present salary—Rs. 1,000 per mensem—his previous salary at Ministry of Food, London, was £520 per annum, in the scale of £400/50/600, plus the superannuation emoluments of his Local Government Department, the total amounting to approximately £650.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS RICE WITH BENGAL GOVERNMENT

458. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state whether during recent months the Government of Bengal approached the Central Government with any proposal for the disposal outside Bengal of any stock of rice or paddy procured in Bengal? If so, will the Honourable Member make a detailed statement about the proposal and the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

(b) What is the total quantity of rice at present in stock in Bengal under the Government procurement scheme? Is any proportion of it particularly

liable to deterioration due to the quality or variety of the rice, or defective storage or otherwise?

(c) Is it a fact that milled rice is generally less liable to deterioration or deteriorates less rapidly than *Dhenki* or hand pounded rice? What proportion of the stock of rice referred to in parts (a) and (b) respectively, represents milled rice?

(d) What is the total annual milling capacity of the rice mills in Bengal and what is their total storage capacity? Is the Honourable Member satisfied that the milling capacity of these mills and their storage capacity have been fully utilised by the Government of Bengal under the procurement scheme? If not, what are the reasons for the failure to do so? Have any complaints been received from the rice-milling industry of Bengal on his or any other point relating to the Government attitude towards the industry? If so, to what effect and with what result?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes. Owing to the success of the Government of Bengal's procurement operations particularly in the closing months of 1944, they have very large stocks in their possession and have been anxious not only to secure avoidance of deterioration by ensuring a satisfactory turnover but to make supplies of rice available to the Government of India on a replacement basis if such supplies could be utilised to the advantage of other deficit areas. The Government of India and the Government of Bengal have examined the position together. They have decided upon certain measures designed to secure the necessary turnover of stocks within Bengal itself and the provision of greatly augmented storage accommodation. To this end, the Government of India have offered the Government of Bengal financial assistance and also assistance with materials and priorities for the rapid construction of additional storage. There is no proposal at present to export rice from Bengal.

(b) and (c). Complete upto-date figures are not available. A detailed survey is now being made of the stocks actually held, the different classes of rice and paddy in the stocks and their present condition. Generally *Aus* and *Boro* rice deteriorate more quickly than *Aman* rice. The exact quantities of these classes of rice now held will be known after the survey is complete. It is true that milled rice keeps longer than *dhenki* or hand-pounded rice. The proportion of *dhenki* and hand-pounded rice in the stocks held will also be known after the survey.

(d) A report has been called for from the Bengal Government. The information required will be placed on the Library table when received.

Wednesday, 28th February, 1945.

IMPURE WHEAT RATIONED IN PESHAWAR

520. **Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether impure wheat with an admixture of barley, gram and small stones is being rationed in Peshawar; and

(b) whether steps are being taken to find out who is responsible for this?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I am informed by the N.-W. F. P. Government that it is not a fact.

(b) Does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that the same complaint is being made by people as far down south as southern India and Malabar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Honourable Member has seen the sample of wheat which I placed on his table this morning?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have just seen the sample handed over to me by the Honourable Member himself.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the fact that some Provincial Governments are very lenient in dealing with these organisations for distribution of grain, may I know whether the Central Government will appoint its own agents directly to deal with this distribution?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, that is not our policy.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government have examined anywhere, taking at random a unit of a bag of rice or wheat, and seen what percentage of it is mud and stones?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No; it is not necessary to do so; the quality is generally good.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is the Honourable Member aware that allegations have been made in this House by at least three Members of this House coming from three different provinces and in view of that fact, will he do it?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes; if any complaints are brought to my notice. But generally the quality is not bad: people are eating the stuff.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Central Government has any machinery to find out whether the report of the Provincial Government is correct or not? Will Government appoint an independent machinery of their own?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will inquire.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that municipal officers of health are very nervous in complaining about the quality of foodstuffs in Government shops lest they should be sacked and that the Government strangles any complaint in the press against their grain shops?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No; I am not aware of that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government got any officers of their own who are expected to go down to these places where these complaints come from and examine what sort of quality of foodstuffs are being supplied to the people?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No.; I have already answered that; the Government of India have no machinery.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: This is a very important question, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

DISPARITIES IN PRICES OF RICE IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

521. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that disparities are allowed to prevail in the prices of common sorts of rice in different surplus or delta districts of Madras Presidency;

(b) what the causes are for such disparities;

(c) if it is not a fact that while the ceiling price of paddy is allowed to remain at Rs. 11-12-0 per bag of 166 pounds including the cost of sack and cartage to the factory, the corresponding price in Krishna District is only Rs. 10-8-0;

(d) whether, while the Guntur price was raised from Rs. 10-8-0 to Rs. 11-12-0 during December, 1944, the price of a bag of paddy in Krishna District has not been raised;

(e) the reasons for this distinction;

(f) whether Government are aware of the fact that owing to the pressure of land revenue and harvest expenses many of the poorer peasants are obliged to

sell away their paddy at too low prices, coming down to Rs. 9-8-0 per bag, while richer landlords and factory owners and many middlemen are able to purchase such paddy and hoard it up in anticipation of a later rise in prices; and

(g) whether Government propose to see that the ceiling price is raised at least to the Guntur level and make it the standard price?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No, Sir. The maximum difference in price for the first sort rice is three annas a maund.

(b) The differences are based on pre-war parities.

(c), (d) and (e). The same prices have been fixed for Kistna and Guntur Districts, viz., Rs. 11-12-8 per bag of 166 lbs.

(f) Transactions at rates slightly lower than the ceiling prices, immediately after the harvest are quite normal. The ceiling rates have been fixed for the whole year.

(g) Does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that so far as the Kistna district is concerned, this so-called ceiling price of Rs. 11-12-0 per bag was not actually in operation and that the actual price was Rs. 2 less than this?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government have received representations from the ryots in these areas that the price fixed is very much less than their cost price?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of that, either.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask what is the policy of the Government of India—to increase the present prices or to lower them?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: This is a very general question—a very wide question; I cannot answer it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that in the country the people are not only anxious that dearness allowances should be granted to the working classes in the towns but also a decent price should be given to the producers of food grains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a matter for argument.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

CEILING PRICES OF PADDY AND RICE IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

522. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Food Grains Producers Conferences of Guntur, Nellore, Kistna, West Godavari and Vizagapatam Districts have demanded that the ceiling price for a bag of paddy of 166 pounds *minus* the sack should be fixed at Rs. 12, which works out at about Rs. 9 per maund of 80 pounds as against the present price of Rs. 8-2-0 per bag;

(b) whether the ceiling price of the same quantity of rice is Rs. 9-8-0 in Sind;

(c) whether the ceiling price of the Punjab rice is Rs. 13-8-0;

(d) whether the Sind and Punjab prices used to be much higher than the Madras prices of paddy and rice;

(e) whether, as a consequence, the Madras paddy growers have been made to lose in view of their liability to bear the same higher prices of most of the industrial commodities needed by all peasants of all provinces;

(f) whether it is not a fact that the Madras Government is trying to further depress paddy and rice prices by selling subsidized wheat at prices lower than those of rice of common varieties; and

(g) whether Government propose to see that a reasonable price approximating at least to the price of Rs. 12 per bag of paddy or Rs. 9 per maund of rice

is fixed as the ceiling as well as the price in the Deltaic areas of Madras presidency?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I have no information.

(b), (c) and (d). The Madras ceiling prices are not comparable with the statutory maximum prices in Sind and the Punjab. In Sind, the statutory maximum for coarse rice is Rs. 8-8-0 per maund, but the market price is about Rs. 8. In the Punjab, while the statutory maximum price is Rs. 13-8-0, the market price has varied from time to time and is now about Rs. 11. The ceiling prices in Madras are the prices at which Grain Purchase officers will buy from mills in surplus districts for supply to deficit districts. These prices are not inelastic but have been increased whenever an increase has been found to be necessary.

(e) No, Sir. I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (a) (ii) of his Starred Question No. 187 on the 13th February.

(f) No, the sale of wheat is subsidised in order to provide at prices within the reach of the poorest, a substitute for rice which is in short supply.

(g) I am satisfied that the present purchase prices fixed by the Madras Government are not unfair to the agriculturist.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that it is not the poorest people who are able to consume wheat in South India but it is rather the richest, the richer and the middle class people?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We want the poorest to eat wheat. It is good for them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member then prepared to supply them with the necessary implements and vessels and other things?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know what implements are necessary for eating wheat. I am sure that the Madras Government will do everything in order to popularize wheat and encourage its use.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Madras Government is doing nothing. On the other hand it is only the richer and the middle class people who are able to consume wheat.

(No reply.)

LOWER PRICES OF PADDY AND RICE IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

523. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not the policy of Government to protect the interests of paddy producers against any low prices imposed upon them by the local factory owners and other merchants;

(b) whether it is not a fact that the prices of paddy have gone down in Kistna District from the ceiling price of Rs. 10-8-0 to Rs. 9-8-0 now prevailing in the villages;

(c) whether there has grown to be a difference of Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per bag between the prices of paddy and corresponding quantities of rice; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to fix a minimum price which may not be lower than Rs. 10-8-0 and a ceiling price of Rs. 12 per bag and to give full option to peasants to supply to Government and cooperative stores either paddy or rice and to make the ceiling price as the price to prevail throughout the year?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Madras Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of establishing a price, whether it is ceiling or medium or whatever it is, and see that at that price paddy is purchased by their officers as well as the general public?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, Sir, I will make a note of that.

RICE AND PADDY DESTROYED BY GOVERNMENT IN NORTH BIHAR

537. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a press interview of Mr. E. C. Ansouge, Food adviser to the Bihar Government, published at page 2, Column 4, of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 8th February, 1945;

(b) whether it is a fact, as stated therein that a large quantity of rice and paddy had been destroyed by the Government in North Bihar;

(c) who purchased this grain, from, where, when, and at what price; who examined it and passed it as fit and when (please give full details); and

(d) whether Government have made any enquiries about this matter and what action they have taken or contemplate to take in this matter so as to prevent its recurrence?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). A full statement of facts was given by the Honourable Mr. B. K. Sen, Director General of Food in the Council of State on the 15th November, 1944. A copy of the statement is placed on the Library table.

CERTAIN ORDER OF THE RATIONING CONTROLLER, DELHI

542. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if his attention has been drawn to the issue of the *Daily Tej*, dated the 2nd February, 1945, giving news about the circulation of an order by the Rationing Controller, Delhi, requiring every "establishment" holding ration permits to deposit security either in cash or in the shape of National Saving Certificates not later than the 10th February, 1945, and to sign an agreement on a one rupee judicial stamp, which agreement is not enclosed with the said order although it is written in the said order that the agreement is appended herewith

(b) Is he aware of the public opinion regarding the validity of the order referred to in part (a) above?

(c) Will he please state the action that he proposes to take against this order?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) I have seen some criticism in the press.

(c) The matter is under examination.

RICE AND WHEAT SUPPLIED TO BENGAL GOVERNMENT FOR CALCUTTA

554. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the total quantity of rice and wheat supplied by the Central Food Supply Department to the Bengal Government for supply to Calcutta proper and industrial centres attached to Calcutta in 1943-44 and at what price?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the total quantity of aus and aman paddy purchased and made into rice or rice purchased by the Government of Bengal in 1943-44 and at what price?

(c) What surplus was left after a year's consumption by Calcutta consumer and Bengal consumer of rice at the end of December, 1944?

(d) What is the quantity of aman rice, purchased by the Government of Bengal in January and up to the 15th February, 1945?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Supplies of rice and wheat to Bengal arranged by the Central Government were as follows:—

235,470 tons of rice between 1st November 1943 and 2nd November 1944; and 469,127 tons of wheat between 1st April 1943 and 30th April 1944, I regret that I cannot undertake the compilation of a statement of prices, as these varied considerably according to the season and the source of supply.

(b) The total quantity, in terms of rice, purchased by the Bengal Government during 1944 was over a million tons. Details about the varieties purchased and the prices are not available.

(c) The total stocks in the hands of the Bengal Government at the end of 1944 was over half a million tons.

(d) The Honourable Member will appreciate that it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this stage in the season.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS RICE WITH BENGAL GOVERNMENT

555. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is the Honourable the Food Member aware of the fact that the Government of Bengal is in a position and desire to export the surplus rice out of India, if permitted?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if rice or paddy in *mofussil* has been purchased by the Government of Bengal at the rate of Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 per maund, at the most? If so, does he propose to reduce the price of rationed rice from Rs. 16-4-0 to Rs. 9 from the next month?

(c) What steps is the Honourable Member contemplating to take to reduce the price of rice all over Bengal and does he propose to fix the price according to the quality of rice?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) and (c). I am not aware that purchases have been made at the price quoted. The issue prices of certain coarse varieties of rice have already been greatly reduced and the question of fixing prices according to quality is under consideration.

REMOVAL OF THE SIGN BOARD OF THE "NATIONAL HERALD"

559. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if the Regional Food Controller of Lucknow has his office in the same building at Lucknow as the Associated Journals, Limited, the proprietors of the *National Herald*;

(b) if the Food Controller asked the Sign Board of the *National Herald* to be removed;

(c) if it was pointed out to him that under the Indian Companies Act, it was essential for a company to have such a board on its premises;

(d) if the provisions of the Defence of India Rules were used in order to requisition more rooms in the said building and get the Notice Board removed;

(e) if Government will inquire whether these rooms were needed for the Food Controller's Office; and

(f) if they propose the delivering back of the rooms and the putting up of the Sign Board?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b), (c) and (d). The Government of India have no information.

(e) and (f). The Regional Food Controller is an officer of the Provincial Government, and not of my Department.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Government have called for information after this question was received?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir. We have no concern in the matter.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I take it that as the Department does not function in the Province at all? Is it not a fact that the Provincial authorities derive all their authority from the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir.

Monday, the 5th March, 1945

MEAT DEHYDRATION FACTORIES

655. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the number of meat dehydrating factories in India together with the names of places where they are situated;

(b) how many of them are for *jhatka* meat together with the names of places where they are situated;

(c) whether the process of dehydration has proved to be a success in this country, and how much dehydrated meat has been found so far to be unfit for human consumption from the various factories; and

(d) whether it is a fact that some factories have been closed after some time; if so, how many and which of them?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) There are nine meat dehydration factories in operation or under construction in India, situated at Madras, Ranipet, Anantapur, Poona, Patna, Delhi, Agra, Amritsar and Nowshera (N.-W. F. P.).

(b) Of these, four are *Jhatka* meat factories situated at Madras, Ranipet, Poona and Amritsar.

(c) (i) The process of dehydration of meat has proved successful in this country.

(ii) Only a quantity of 31 tons, produced at the Amritsar meat factory in 1943, was found later to be unfit for the Defence Forces.

(d) Only one factory has been temporarily closed for remodelling.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is all this dehydrated meat used by the army or is a part of it consumed by the civilian population also?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I am not aware of that.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Are these factories Government-owned and operated or are they given to contractors?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: New ones are all Government-owned and operated.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that the factory at Nowshera has brought about a great increase in the price of meat in the N.-W. F. P. where it is an ordinary article of food?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that after this factory was set up the price of meat has gone up to something like Rs. 2-4-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 a seer?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the hardship involved to the Frontier people, will the Honourable Member consider the question of removing this factory to some other province where the people are mostly vegetarians?

(No reply was given.)

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is the Honourable Member aware that great hardship is caused to the civilian population, on account of these dehydration factories, by raising the price of meat? Even in Delhi where the price was only six annas a seer it is now Rs. 1-8-0.

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I submit that whether that is due to the dehydration factories is a matter of opinion; my own opinion is that it is not entirely due to that.

INFORMAL RATIONING IN DISTRICTS OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY

657. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether informal rationing is going to be introduced in Coimbatore and other districts in the Madras Presidency; and

(b) whether it is true that in such rationing, while Government will take away all surplus grain from the producers do not guarantee its supply to them throughout the year?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) Yes.

(b) Since the surplus only is taken, the question of its return later in the year does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government aware that under this scheme the agriculturists are provided only for three months and not for the whole year?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if it is a part of the informal rationing? Surely he must be aware of that.

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: The scheme is that the surplus is taken; that is to say, Government leave with the producer what they consider to be necessary for him for the remainder of the year. If the producer does not produce enough for himself, not only is the stuff not taken from him but arrangements are made to supply him with the grain he needs.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will he consider this matter that if the provision made for him is only for three months Government should amend it so that a whole year's provision may be left for him?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I will bring that to the notice of the Government of Madras.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the distinction between informal rationing and compulsory rationing?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: There is very little distinction in practice except that in formal rationing Government undertake a statutory obligation to provide the ration. In informal rationing they are under no statutory obligation to provide a specified amount of ration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How is the quantity to be allotted to the peasant? Is it the same as in the case of other people or is it something else?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: As to the method of calculation in Madras I would refer the Honourable Member to the report of the Honourable Mr. Somerset Butler on this subject, a copy of which is in the Library.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member supply me with a copy?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I shall be happy to do so.

UNIT OF FOODGRAINS RATIONING IN VILLAGES

658. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether a ration of one lb. per individual is calculated for rationing foodgrains in villages; whether it refers to rice only or all foodgrains;

(b) whether he has received any representations from any Government or otherwise that one lb. of grains is absolutely insufficient for peasants and others working on the fields; and

(c) whether he proposes to consider the advisability of increasing this by another half a pound at least to producers of foodgrains, when calculations are made with reference to taking on the surplus grain from them?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) A one lb. ration means one lb. of all the cereals, included in the group ration. Where, however, rice only is rationed it means one lb. of rice.

(b) One such representation has been received but not from any Government.

(c) The Government of India have already advised Provincial Governments to be generous in estimating the quantity of foodgrains which a producer should be allowed to retain for his own consumption.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they recommended any rate in the matter of generosity?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: We have not laid down a rate from the Centre, but I understand that in Madras the practice is to give one pound.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that Madras is a deficit province and rice is to be supplied by the Government of India to meet the deficit, is the Honourable Member aware that they cannot increase it unless the Government of India undertake to supply the extra amount required.

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Yes, Sir, we shall do our best to supply whatever the Madras Government ask us to supply.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have Government received any representations from the Madras Government as to the extra amount necessary beyond this one pound?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir, not so far.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: What is the rice ration in Bengal per individual?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: In Calcutta it is eight pounds per week.

SAVINGS IN FOODGRAINS OF SURPLUS AREAS DUE TO RATIONING SYSTEM

664. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether there has been any saving in the foodgrains by the introduction of rationing system in the surplus areas like the Punjab and the United Provinces; and

(b) whether Government are aware that in rationed towns wheat or *atta* is sold at a higher price and is of comparatively worse quality than that sold in non-rationed towns?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) Yes, but the United Provinces was not a surplus province last year.

(b) No Sir, not as a general rule.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Can the Honourable Member give me any idea as to how much grain has been saved?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: It is impossible to calculate that.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Punjab Government has represented to the Government of India that rationing is not necessary in that province?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: They did represent but they have undertaken to carry out rationing in the Punjab.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it not a fact that there is a shortage of wheat in the United Provinces which used to be a surplus province? What is the reason for that?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: There is a shortage of wheat in the United Provinces this year, and that was due to the loss of nearly 500,000 tons of wheat in the last week of March and the first week of April last year. The reason of the loss was climatic conditions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is this food rationing applied to all the towns in the United Provinces or only to some principal towns?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: It is not applied to all the towns, but it applies to a very great many of them.

Mr. Abdul Qayum: May I know briefly by what process the Honourable Member has arrived at this exact figure of 500,000 tons?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: On the estimate of the Provincial Governments concerned.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Did this loss take place in Government godowns or in the fields.

(No answer was given by Mr. Hutchings.)

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Of course in the fields, due to climatic conditions.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The loss can be in the godowns also due to climatic conditions because the Government are most careless about their godowns.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

PRICE OF IMPORTED WHEAT AT CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, ETC.

665. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the cost price and the market price of the imported wheat at Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi and Delhi; and

(b) whether the Government of India make any profit out of it; if so, to what extent?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) The present price of imported wheat at Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi is Rs. 9-3-0 per maund *ex-Port Trust Transit Shed* which is a 'pool price' based on the actuals for cost and freight to India, the estimated cost of clearing and bagging and a charge to cover Marine and War risk-insurance. There is no "market price" for imported wheat at these places, as the towns are rationed and wheat is a controlled commodity. No imported wheat has so far been received in Delhi.

(b) The Government of India are not making any profit out of the import of foodgrains.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What is the actual cost price of imported wheat in these towns?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: In the case of Australian wheat up till last October it was Rs. 7/5 per maund. Since then the cost of Australian wheat has risen slightly and it is now Rs. 8/6 per maund.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any of the Provincial Governments making any profit?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt: Has the Honourable Member any information as to what is the F. O. B. price of Australian wheat?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I have some information but I would not like to give a categorical answer without notice, I think it is between Rs. 3 and Rs. 4.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the policy of the Government to push down the price of rice and wheat in India by importing Australian wheat at such a low price?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir.

DAMAGED FOODGRAINS

666. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) how much foodgrains had been damaged all over India during 1944; and

(b) whether these foodgrains were put in Government Stores, or were lying with licensed dealers?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) and (b). Complete information is not available with the Government of India.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know with reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (a), whether this damage is in Government godowns also or only in open fields?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I have said that complete information is unfortunately not readily available.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member please make a statement on the basis of whatever information, complete or incomplete that there may be at the disposal of the Government?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir. I must ask for notice.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that enormous masses of foodgrains are ruined in Government godowns, will the Honourable Member please instruct the Provincial Governments to be more careful about their storage?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I have already done so.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What reply has he received from the Provincial Governments to this?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: All the Provincial Governments are actively engaged on improving their storage.

SCARCITY OF FOOD IN BIHAR

673. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that Mr. Biswanath Das, the former Premier of Orissa, has stated in a press statement, dated the 29th January, that "severe distress was prevailing in Orissa which was in no way lesser than that of Bengal";

(b) the Districts in which real scarcity of food supplies prevails, and to what extent;

(c) whether there have been deaths during 1944 due to destitution or special incidence of epidemics due to malnutrition;

(d) whether the Government of Orissa has asked for any supplies of rice and wheat from other Provinces;

(e) what assistance has been rendered by the Central Government to alleviate the distress of Orissa; and

(f) the plans of both the Central and Provincial Governments to assure Orissa adequacy and regularity of food supply during 1945?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) I have seen a news paper report to that effect.

(b) The Orissa Government report that there is at present no scarcity of food in any district.

(c) There were no deaths due to destitution in 1944. There was a slight increase in deaths due to cholera, small-pox, fever, dysentery and diarrhoea in the first half of 1944, as compared with the corresponding part of 1943 and the quinquennial average for the years 1938-42. It is, however, difficult to say definitely how far this increase can be ascribed to malnutrition. There was a decrease in the number of deaths from the same causes in the latter half of 1944 compared with the latter half of 1943.

(d) and (e) The Government of Orissa have not asked for any supplies of rice, in which grain they have declared themselves to be surplus. As regards wheat, the Government of Orissa asked for 9,500 tons, which has been allotted to them in full.

(f) The Provincial Government's scheme of procurement of rice and paddy, and its distribution at controlled rates in deficit areas is sufficient to ensure adequacy and regularity of food supplies.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that a responsible officer of the Food Department of the Government of India visited this area early in December last and if so, what was his report?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I have given the answer as to the facts of the question as already stated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of sending an officer to go to the area and ascertain for himself whether really scarcity conditions do not prevail in the Ganjam District of Orissa.

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I will try to pay a visit myself as early as possible.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the report of the Special Officer as well as the report of the Government of Orissa are identical in this matter?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Yes, Sir, they are.

FOOD ADVISORY COUNCILS

674. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) on what basis the present Food Advisory Councils are being appointed in different Provinces;

(b) whether it is proposed to drop the principle of nomination, to invite the organisations of peasants and agricultural workers and land-holders who are actually interested in cultivation, and to provide the majority of seats on such Food Councils to agriculturists and other villages;

(c) for what terms these Councils are constituted;

(d) whether Government propose to reconstitute these Councils on more popular basis with greater representation for agriculturists and rural public;

(e) in how many Provinces such Councils now exist and function; and

(f) what their functions are?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a), (e) and (f). Food Advisory Councils or similar bodies, have been set up by ten Provincial Governments, in order to associate non-official public opinion with the work of their Food administration. The composition of these bodies varies; their function is mainly advisory.

(b) and (d). The composition of these councils is for the respective Provincial Governments to decide

(c) The Government of India have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that Government have given an assurance on the floor of this House during the last debate on Food to the effect that they will recommend to the Provincial Governments to see that these Food Councils are so constituted that agricultural producers are given sufficient and satisfactory representation?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I do not think that we give special preference to agricultural producers but we certainly have given an assurance that it is our policy to encourage the constitution of such councils.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member suggest to the Provincial Governments that they should see that their Food Councils are made as representative as possible, particularly of peasants?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Yes, Sir, I will make that suggestion to Provincial Governments.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether Government will also consider the question of making the Central Food Advisory Council more representative than it is today and whether they will put upon it a representative of the All-India Trade Union Congress?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I will give consideration to that suggestion

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

BUTLER REPORT

675. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is proposed to publish Mr. Butler's report on Government Food Procurement;

(b) if he is prepared to supply a copy of that report to members of this House; and

(c) what the conclusions drawn by Government and the recent All-India Food Conference on that report are?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). The Honourable Somerset Butler's report has been published, and copies have been placed in the Library.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the resolutions passed by the 5th All-India Food Conference, copies of which were placed on the table of the House along with the Memorandum on the Food Situation in India, at the beginning of the Session.

COMPULSORY CONSUMPTION OF WHEAT IN RATIONED TOWNS

676. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the reasons for imposing compulsory consumption of wheat in all rationed towns up to a prescribed extent even though such towns happen to be in surplus or self-sufficient districts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring only to the Madras Province. The object is to secure an equitable distribution of rice and millets, in which the province as a whole is deficit, while providing a total cereal ration which meets the minimum requirements.

FOOD PROCUREMENT STAFF

677. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact—(i) that the Food Procurement Staff are indulging in much *sulm*, (ii) that there is much corruption in their work, (iii) that they are harassing ignorant peasants, (iv) that they are favouring factory owners, merchants as against peasants, and (v) that Mr. Butler has also complained of the mis-behaviour of these officers;

(b) what steps Government propose to take in order to inspect the activities of their Food Procurement Officers, and to see that they carry on their duties in the interests of both producers and consumers and in close consultation with the Local Food Advisory Councils; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of constituting a "Food Procurement Inspection Directorate" in addition to their proposed Directorates for storage and inspection?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). I am not responsible for the conduct of the servants of Provincial Administrations whose duty it is to procure foodgrains. I am aware that corruption exists, but I am not prepared to lend my authority to wholesale allegations of the kind set forth in the Honourable Member's question.

As to the steps which I have taken to combat bribery and corruption, the Honourable Member is invited to study the answer given to parts (a) (ii) and (iii) of Mr. Abdul Qaiyum's starred question No. 296 on the 16th of February 1945

(c) No, Sir.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

Written Answer

(Postponed from February 21, 1945)

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS RICE WITH BENGAL GOVERNMENT

441. *Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreement has been arrived at between the Central Government and the Bengal Government about the disposal of the so-called "surplus" rice acquired by the Bengal Government;

(b) whether the present rice and paddy purchase policy of the Bengal Government has the full approval of the Government of India; and

(c) whether steps will be taken by the Government of India to ensure that in future the Bengal Government's purchases are confined to paddy for which expensive storage facilities are less essential than in the case of rice?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) The Bengal Government have no surplus rice. The best methods of keeping and bringing into consumption in Bengal large quantities of rice and paddy purchased in 1944 have been fully discussed with

the Bengal Government. Certain agreed conclusions have been reached, and action taken to implement them.

(b) The Bengal Government's arrangements for purchasing rice and paddy were decided in consultation with the Government of India, who will continue to be in the closest touch with the Provincial Government in their execution of the plan.

(c) The Government of India have suggested and the Bengal Government have agreed that a substantial proportion of future purchases should be stored as paddy.

Thursday, 8th March, 1945

DISPARITIES IN PRICES OF GROUND NUTS, GROUND NUT KERNEL, ETC.

829. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Food be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact—

(i) that great disparities prevail in the prices of groundnuts, groundnut kernel and oil and cake in the different markets of the country;

(ii) that such disparities are independent of the differing costs of transport-damaged of the produce in transit; and

(iii) that such disparities are caused mostly by the un-co-ordinated and non-planned fixation of prices both in the supply and consumption centres; and

(b) whether Government propose to re-examine the whole basis on which such prices are fixed, and margins for various profits of middlemen are allowed, with a view to bring about a smaller inequality in the ranges of prices allowed to be paid to the producers and to be charged to the consumers, after making allowances for transport and such other incidental expenses?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). I am aware that disparities in the prices of groundnuts and groundnut by-products exist. The Honourable Member will realise that several Departments of Government are interested in the matter, and the whole question of securing improved co-ordination is now being actually examined.

MUSLIM OFFICERS IN OFFICES OF REGIONAL FOOD COMMISSIONER, ETC.

832. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the total number of Gazetted posts in the offices of the Regional Food Commissioner and Sugar Controller of India, and the number of Muslims therein?

(b) Is it a fact that there is not a single Muslim officer holding the posts of Regional Food Commissioner, Deputy Regional Food Commissioner or of officers dealing with sugar control in India? If so, why?

(c) Were any of these posts advertised, and were any steps taken to recruit suitable Muslims in these posts? If not, why not?

(d) Do Government now propose to appoint suitable Muslims on these posts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table.

(b) Yes. One of the posts of Regional Food Commissioner was originally held by a Muslim but the post was later abolished.

A Muslim officer has been selected for the post of Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Bombay, and he is expected to take up his duties on the 13th March, 1945.

(c) None of the posts of Regional Food Commissioner nor any connected with sugar control was advertised. The posts of Deputy Regional Food Commissioner for the Bombay and North West Regions were, however, advertised. Applications were also invited from the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and

the Muslim Chamber of Commerce for the posts of Deputy and Assistant Regional Food Commissioners. The claims of every candidate were carefully considered and the best were selected. There were very few Muslim candidates.

(d) I cannot undertake to recruit to these posts on a communal basis, but I will certainly appoint Muslim Officers to any vacancies for which suitable Muslim candidates are forthcoming.

Statement		
Name	Number of posts	Number of Muslims
(1) Office of the Regional Food Commissioners	21	2
(2) Office of the Sugar Controller for India.	8	Nil

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How many Regional Food Commissioners are there in India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Five, I think.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: And the Honourable Member says that out of these five there is not even one Muslim?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is no Muslim.

Seth Yusooif Abdoola Haroon: Why was not the post of Deputy Regional Commissioner advertised?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I said it was advertised.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Was the gentleman appointed as Regional Commissioner in Bombay a colliery manager in Calcutta who knew nothing either about food or about Bombay?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall require notice; he was appointed before my time.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Does the Honourable Member propose to give to this House the qualifications of all these five Regional Food Commissioners and the basis of their selection in preference to others?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, if my Honourable friend will table a question.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt: With reference to the question asked about the Regional Commissioner of Bombay, has he not proved an extremely effective and efficient officer?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, Sir.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: What are the different communities to which these five Regional Commissioners, belong?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall require notice of that.

MUSLIM CONTRACTORS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

833. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the total number of contractors working in the Food Department and the number of Muslim contractors on the 1st January, 1945?

(b) What is the total value of contracts placed by the Food Department on the 1st January 1945, and the value of contracts placed with Muslim contractors?

(c) Do Government propose to safeguard the interests of Muslim contractors in matters of contracts placed by the Food Department?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) About 500 contractors are on the list of the Food Department. It is not practicable to state how many of them are Muslims because contracting firms have not been classified community-wise. The names of the firms are no guide to the religion of the proprietors and upto date information regarding the partners in particular firms is not maintained.

(b) No contracts were placed on the 1st January, 1945.

(c) In placing contracts no distinction or discrimination is made between Muslim and Non-Muslim firms. Contracts are now being placed, as far as possible, after inviting tenders.

Seth Yusoof Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that the names of the contractors and their partners are asked when a contract is given?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Not always; if the firm is well known it is not necessary. It is only when we do not know the credentials of the firm that we ask them for the names of the partners.

Seth Yusoof Abdoola Haroon: If the firm is well known the names of the partners are also well known to the Department?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Not necessarily. For example, I do not know who the partners of my Honourable friend's firm are.

Seth Yusoof Abdoola Haroon: I think I did supply the names.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: In view of the widespread complaint that Muslims do not get sufficient contracts, will the Honourable Member see that in future Muslim firms and Muslim contractors are at least given sufficient scope to apply for these contracts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I wish to assure my Honourable friend that I will personally look into this as I do not want that there should be a complaint among Mussulmans that they have not been fairly treated by the Department.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY (ADMINISTRATION) IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

834. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if an officer on special duty for administration has recently been appointed in the Food Department, and what his duties are?

(b) What are his qualifications and what is his age? Is he a retired person? If so, what was his pay at the time of retirement and what is his present pay?

(c) Was it not possible to appoint a member of the existing staff on the job?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, since November 1944. His duties are similar to those of an Under Secretary in charge of the Administration Branch of the Food Department. He holds the substantive post of an Assistant Secretary in the Department and is on deputation as Deputy Secretary to the Famine Inquiry Commission. In addition to his duties with the Commission he was appointed as Officer on Special Duty in the Food Department without any extra remuneration to suggest steps to be taken for improving office efficiency generally.

(b) His age is 58, and he is a retired Officer of the Government of India. His present pay as Deputy Secretary in the Famine Inquiry Commission is Rs. 1,300 per month.

(c) The Officer in question was a member of the existing staff in the Food Department prior to his deputation to the Famine Inquiry Commission and he will be reverting to the Department on completion of the Commission's work.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Does he draw any other allowances?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: This salary is inclusive of the pension.

SUPERIOR SECRETARIAT STAFF OF THE FAMINE ENQUIRY COMMISSION

835. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state whether the Superior Secretariat Staff of the Famine Enquiry Commission consists of a Secretary, a Joint Secretary and a Deputy Secretary? What are the qualifications of the incumbents and what are their duties?

(b) Is it a fact that post of the Joint Secretary has recently been created? If so, what was the special justification for the creation of this post?

(c) Is it a fact that the Deputy Secretary is not working on the drafting of the Commission's report and is only in charge of general supervision and administration of the staff of the Commission?

(d) What is the number of staff of the Famine Enquiry Commission in the grades of (i) Superintendents, (ii) Assistants, and (iii) Clerks? How many of them are Muslims and how many of them are Hindus specially Bengalis?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (c). Yes. The Secretary is an officer of the Indian Civil Service. The Joint Secretary was an Under Secretary in the Department of Commerce, and the Deputy Secretary was an Under Secretary, Department of Food, at the time of their appointment. The Secretary and the Joint Secretary perform the usual Secretariat functions in respect of the work of a Commission. The Deputy Secretary assists the Secretary in controlling the establishment and funds and is specially in charge of making arrangements for the tours of the Commission.

(b) No. This post was created about a month after the assembling of the Commission.

(d) (i) Superintendents—2, (ii) Assistants—22, and (iii) Division Clerks—12. Total—36.

No. Muslim at present. 32 are Hindus, of whom 2 are Bengalees

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Was there no qualified Muslim available to be appointed in this Department?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, Sir, this is not a department of the Food Department. Most of the appointments have been made by the Commission themselves when they were in Calcutta, and they had to find their staff quickly. They got hold of the best men they could get. It is a purely temporary thing.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Did the Honourable Member draw the attention of the Commission to observe the communal ratio?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, and I do not propose to do so

Mr. M. Ghasuddin: Was the recruitment made in a manner that the officer-in-charge went out and caught the first men he could get?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I was not there to witness it.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

MUSLIM OFFICERS OF CERTAIN GRADES IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

836. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the number of officers in the following grades in the Food Department and the number of Muslims in each of these grades:

(i) Secretaries, (ii) Joint Secretaries, (iii) Deputy Secretaries, (iv) Officers on Special Duty, (v) Advisers and Special Officers, (vi) Under Secretaries, and (vii) Assistant Secretaries?

(b) What is the method followed for the recruitment and promotion to the abovementioned posts, and who are the appointing or promoting authorities? Have ever any steps been taken to appoint suitable Muslims to these posts? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Appointments and promotions to the posts of Under Secretary and above in the Secretariat are made on the recommendations of the Selection Board of the Government of India and with the approval of His Excellency the Governor General. Selection to the post of Assistant Secretary is made by the Secretary with my approval on the recommendation of the Staff Selection Committee of the Department.

The posts of Advisers, Special Officers and Officers on Special Duty, are technical and appointments thereto are made by the Secretary with my approval

except in the case of officers on loan from His Majesty's Government for whom the approval of His Excellency the Governor General is required.

The claims of Muslim Officers have always been taken into account:

<i>Statement</i>				
Serial Number	Post		Total Number	Muslims
(i)	Secretary		1	<i>Nil</i>
(ii)	Joint Secretary		2	<i>Nil</i>
(iii)	Deputy Secretary		4	<i>Nil</i>
(iv)	Officers on Special Duty		2	<i>Nil</i>
(v)	Advisers and Special Officers		12	1
(vi)	Under Secretaries		4	1
(vii)	Assistant Secretaries		4	<i>Nil</i>

FOOD DEPARTMENT, SELECTION COMMITTEE

837. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state whether there is a Selection Committee in the Food Department? How does it function and which of the officers constitute this Committee? How many of them are Muslims?

(b) In case there is no Muslim on this Committee, what are the reasons for that? Does the Honourable Member propose to see that a suitable number of Muslim officers is appointed on this Committee?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Appointments and promotion to certain classes of Gazetted posts in Divisions II and III of the Food Department are referred to a Selection Committee. Their duty is to make recommendations to the Secretary and to the Honourable Member. They pass no final orders. The committee consists of the following Officers:

Chairman: Joint Secretary, D. F. III.

Members: 1. Deputy Secretary (General) D. F. I.

2. Chief Director of Purchase, D. F. III.

Secretary: Assistant Secretary for Divisions I and II.

A senior Officer of the Section concerned in each case is also co-opted as a Member. None of the permanent Members of the Selection Committee is at present a Muslim.

(b) Members of the Committee hold office by virtue of the post which they hold in the Department. It is not proposed to constitute the committee on a communal basis

MUSLIM ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

838. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the number and rank of the officers in charge of administrations in various Branches of the Food Department? How many of them are Muslims? If none, why have they been excluded from this Branch of work?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (1) Mr. K. L. Punjabi, I.C.S., Joint Secretary.

(2) Mr. N. T. Mone, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary.

(3) Mr. J. M. Lobo-Prabhu, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary.

(4) Mr. S. R. Maini, P.C.S., Under Secretary.

(5) Rai Bahadur D. N. Maitra, Officer on Special Duty.

(6) Mr. N. C. Mukherji, Assistant Secretary.

(7) Mr. A. E. DaCosta, Assistant Secretary.

(8) Mr. T. S. Krishnamurthy, Assistant Secretary.

(9) Mr. S. K. Sen, M.A., Assistant Secretary.

It so happens that none of these officers is a Muslim. There is no question of any one being specially excluded.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS OF MUSLIMS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

839. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Pirachia: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the number of appointments made to the Gazetted and non-Gazetted posts in the Food Department, and the number and proportion of Muslims therein?

(b) What is the number of promotions in the Gazetted and non-Gazetted posts and the number and proportion of Muslims therein

(c) Is it a fact that Muslim representation in the services of the Food Department is below the prescribed percentage? If so, why, and what steps do Government propose to take to bring up the percentage of Muslims to the prescribed extent?

The Honourable Sir Jwa'a Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The claims of the Muslims are kept constantly in view and as is evident from the statement their representation approximates closely to the required standard.

Statement showing number of appointments and promotions in the Gazetted and non-Gazetted staff in the Food Department and the proportion of Muslims, therein—since the date the presents Honourable Member took over charge.

	Number of appointments made since 11th August 1943	Number of Muslims and their percentage	Number of promotions since 11th August 1943	Number of Muslims and their percentage	Remarks
Gazetted . . .	137	36 or 26.2 per cent.	41	10 or 24.3 per cent.	
Non-Gazetted (a)	552 (b)	123 or 22.2 per cent.	134	29 or 21.6 per cent.	

(a) This excludes appointments and promotions to non-gazetted posts in outstation office in regard to which the collection of details will involve time and labour which will not be commensurate with the results.

(b) 35 Muslims refused to accept appointments which were offered to them during this period.

PURCHASES OF WHEAT FOR GOVERNMENT BY MESSRS. OWEN ROBERTS

840. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that Messrs. Owen Roberts were asked by Government to make heavy purchases of wheat in the year 1943? If so, how much of wheat was purchased and of what value?

(b) Is it a fact that large stocks of the purchased wheat, despatched to Delhi were unloaded in the Railway yard and in an open place and a considerable portion of the wheat was damaged by rain? If so, what amount of wheat so damaged was declared unfit for human consumption and consequently destroyed and what was its value? Was this amount written off?

(c) Did Government make enquiries about this damage? If not, why not? Are Government prepared to make enquiries now?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) During 1943 M/s. Owen Roberts & Co., Ltd., Government Grain Purchasing Agents purchased for the Food Department about 4,40,000 tons of wheat of an approximate value of Rs. 12 crores.

(b) The arrivals of wheat at the Delhi Flour Mills in June 1943 were in excess of available storage capacity in the Mills. To avoid detaining railway wagons, bags containing about 2,700 tons wheat had to be temporarily stocked in the open railway land near the Mills Siding. Out of this quantity, 162 maunds of wheat valued at Rs. 1,766 were damaged by heavy rain and had to be destroyed as unfit for human consumption. This sum was written off.

(c) After careful enquiry Government were satisfied that in the circumstances this loss was unavoidable and that no individual was to blame.

PURCHASES OF DAL, ETC., FOR GOVERNMENT BY MESSRS. OWEN ROBERTS

841. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that about 5,000 bags of *dal moong* and *urd* purchased by Messrs. Owen Roberts in 1943-44 were found unfit for human consumption and were ordered to be buried?

(b) If so, was this quantity of *dal* purchased on account of Government? If so, under what order and of what date? Did Government before ordering the damaged *dal* to be buried get that examined by some experts, and who declared it unfit for human consumption?

(c) Are Government aware that 5,000 bags of *dal* were actually buried? If so, where was it buried, and what were the expenses for digging the pits and getting the *dal* buried?

(d) What was the amount of loss thus incurred by Government? Was an enquiry made by Government? If so, what was the result? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (c). The facts are not quite as stated by the Honourable Member. Out of a stock of over 36,000 bags of *moong* and *urd dal* purchased by M/s. Owen Roberts & Co. Ltd., Lahore during the year 1943-44, 1,273 bags were rendered unfit for human consumption through damage by rain and were buried near the Military Grain Depot, Lahore. No expenditure on digging the pits was incurred as Grain Depot labour was employed for the purpose.

(b) Yes this quantity formed part of the stocks at the Military Grain Depot purchased by agents on various dates on behalf of Government. The damaged *dal* was examined by a Military expert, namely, the Assistant Inspector of Food-stuffs, who declared it unfit for human consumption.

(d) The value of the *dal* buried was Rs. 32,838-11-0. Investigation regarding liability for this loss is still proceeding.

COMPENSATION GIVEN TO MESSRS. MODERN INDUSTRIES

842. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if the Food Department has given a compensation to Messrs. Modern industries of about 1½ lakh? What is this compensation for and who is responsible for this loss to Government?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Food Department have paid Rs. 1,40,000 in full settlement of the claim of M/s. Modern Industries of Sahibabad on account of alleged improper rejection by the Inspectorate of Food-stuffs (Q. M. G.'s Branch) of dehydrated potatoes manufactured by the firm and alleged breach of contract on part of Government. The responsibility of the officers concerned is under examination.

GHEE SUPPLIED BY GOVERNMENT PURCHASING AGENTS IN MADRAS

843. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that *ghee* supplied by the *Ghee Supply Company*, Government *Ghee Purchasing Agents* in Madras, has been found unfit for consumption by the troops? If so, what is the amount of such *ghee* and what is its value?

(b) Who has paid for this *ghee*, and who will be responsible for the loss—Government or the contractor?

(c) If Government are to be responsible for the loss, why? Has an enquiry been made in the matter? If so, what is the result?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b) and (c). The answer to the first part is in the negative. The rest does not arise. Government have made a provisional payment for quantities received from its agents. Final payment will be made according to the quantity accepted after processing. The question of loss does not arise.

RISE IN PRICE OF *Basmati* RICE IN NEW DELHI

844. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether the price of *Basmati* rice charged to 'concession' ration card holders has been raised from about Rs. 15 per maund to Rs. 21 per maund from this week, in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons in full for raising the price of a necessary staple article;

(c) whether the price of *Begmi* has been reduced by only one rupee per maund with effect from the same date; and, if so, the reason therefor;

(d) the amount of profits made on both these varieties of rice, if any, or the loss incurred during the last six months;

(e) whether the staff employed at the time the scheme was started, is still being maintained at the same strength or at a reduced strength and the cost of the same as on the 1st January, 1945;

(f) whether, in view of newspaper reports that large stocks of rice are being held up in the Punjab, he proposes to see his way to reduce the prices of good qualities of rice to all ration card holders to pre-war level or a little above that; and

(g) if the stocks of *Begmi* rice in New Delhi and Delhi are fairly heavy whether he will take early steps to send the same to places where rice is sorely needed, like places in South India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) to (d) and (f). Supplies of *Basmati* rice which is consumed by the wealthier classes in Delhi were unequal to the demand. It was decided to sell two qualities and encourage the offtake of *Begmi* rice by the poorer classes by a reduction in price of Rs. 1-8-0 per maund. The prices of rationed grains are so calculated as to ensure no profit and no loss to Government, and are revised from time to time as necessary. The enhanced *Basmati* price balances the reduced *Begmi* price having regard to the relative quantities of each sort available for sale.

(e) The staff originally sanctioned was 1,508. 700 temporarily engaged for writing ration cards were discharged on the introduction of rationing. The present establishment is 824. The cost of staff upto the end of January 1945 has been estimated at Rs. 7,80,000. The figures as on 1st January 1945 are not available.

(g) The stocks of rice in New Delhi and Delhi are no more than what is necessary to maintain the ration. No question of export from Delhi arises.

THROWING AWAY OF MILK BY MILKMEN IN BOMBAY

846. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the news that in Bombay large quantity of milk was thrown on the ground round about the Secretariat Buildings;

(b) what steps, if any, are proposed to be taken for conserving milk and regulating its supply in that city and elsewhere as a necessary article of food; and

(c) whether Government have evolved a scheme for ensuring proper availability of milk and augmenting its supply in cities and in rural areas as part of the "Grow More Food" campaign?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) Several measures have already been taken. Slaughter of milch cattle has been banned. Subsidy is given to export dry cattle to breeding areas. Dry cattle and dairy farms have been established. Export of milk outside Bombay City and suburbs is banned. A scheme is being prepared to take care of cows between lactation periods to prevent slaughter by the owners. Use of milk in ice cream is banned. Use of whole milk or of tinned milk in dry or liquid form or of cream or curd in articles other than tea, coffee, curds, *ghee* and butter is banned for distribution at a public place or for sale. Closure of restaurants and tea shops by 11 P.M. has been made compulsory to save food

including milk. Distribution of milk and milk products to more than 49 persons at or in connection with any function has been prohibited.

A scheme prohibiting the use of whole milk by hotels, restaurants and tea shops has been introduced, supplying to them skimmed milk powder under permits, with a view to release whole fresh milk for distribution among priority consumers.

A scheme for distribution of subsidised whole fresh milk to children and to expectant and nursing mothers on ration cards has been introduced.

Elsewhere also many provinces and states have either adopted or propose to adopt some or all of the above measures and including conservation of cattle feeds, abolition of octroi and other taxes on milk, and prohibition of the use of milk for industrial purposes.

(c) The Government of India have appointed officers to assist the Provinces in initiating schemes of milk supply to towns. The Central Government have also promised Provincial Governments financial assistance for approved schemes.

Meanwhile the following are some of the steps taken. The slaughter of pregnant cows and cows in milk has been prohibited particularly all over India. The prices of cattle feeds and concentrates have been controlled in certain Provinces in order to make them available to the owners of milch cattle at reasonable rates. Financial assistance in the form of interest-free loans has been given in one province to co-operative milk societies, and assistance in other forms has been given for the starting of dairies elsewhere.

Tuesday, 13th March, 1945.

FAMINE IN KATHIAWAR

933. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Food Member been drawn to the following:

"Wadhwan, December 15, 1944: Kathiawar is in the grip of a food famine. Bajra costs as much as 11 rupees a maund. People have had to go without food for as long as three days at a stretch.—A.P. (*Sind Observer*), *Bombay Chronicle Weekly*, February, 11, 1944, page 18"

(b) Is it a fact that famine conditions have shown themselves in Kathiawar and that food is both scarce and dear?

(c) What steps have Government taken to supply additional food to the Kathiawar States?

(d) Have they received any representation from any of the States and from the Resident at Baroda on this subject?

(e) Was Kathiawar a surplus Province as a whole, or a deficit area, before the war?

(f) Where has the food from Kathiawar gone?

(g) Is it a fact that food exports have taken place at the hands of certain States from Kathiawar?

(h) Were these authorised or unauthorised?

(i) Will Government depute special officers to make an enquiry into the situation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Scarcity conditions have been reported.

(c) A quota of 94,000 tons of foodgrains has been allotted to these states as against 6,000 tons last year and action has been taken in consultation with the supplying areas, local authorities and railways to expedite movement. A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(d) The answer is in the affirmative.

(e) Kathiawar used to be deficit in wheat and rice and surplus in millets before the war.

(f) The scarcity is due to a failure of the millet crop.

(g) and (h). There have been movements of grain from that portion of Baroda State situated in Kathiawar to other parts of Baroda State.

No question of authorisation arises regarding movements from one part of a state's territory to another.

(i) A high officer of the Department has already visited the area.

Allotments to Baroda and W. I. States under Rabi and Kharif Plans 1944-45
(In Tons)

Name of Area	Foodgrain	Declared Surplus (+) or Deficit (—)	Up to date quotas		Unallot- ted Sur- plus	Despatches upto 22.2.45		Remarks
			Import	Export		To	From	
W. I. States	Rice	—20,902	10,000	..	..	5,133	..	
	Millets	—122,213	56,754	..	..	10,401	..	
	Maize	Nil	290	..	..	Nil	..	
	Wheat	—19,000	25,233	700*	..	23,855	..	
	Gram	—7,00	1,592	..	..	N. A.	..	
	Barley	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total		—169,115	93,869	700	..	39,389	..	

*Kapla wheat.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What effective steps have been taken by the Government in order to check hoarding by the little States in Kathiawar who are hoarding grain with a view to profiteering?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We have been hard at them through the Political Department.

SCARCITY OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

951. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if he is aware of the importance of protective foods such as milk and milk products;

(b) if he is aware of the great scarcity of milk and milk products felt at present; if so, what measures, if any, have been taken by Government to increase production of milk and its products in the last twelve months; and

(c) if any milk products, such as ghee, are exported to countries outside India; if so, which are those countries?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (c) of Starred Question No. 846 by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar on the 8th March 1945.

(c) No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the large destruction of milch cattle for the consumption of the defence forces has affected the total supply of milk in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I answered that question on the 8th of March.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What was your answer?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I suppose the Honourable Member was present in the House when I replied to that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If the Honourable Member does not carry it in his head, will he be good enough to read it out?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: But it will take me time to look it up.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that constant allegations have been made on the subject of milch cattle, have the Government of India made any enquiries in the matter in order to ascertain that milch cattle is not being slaughtered?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Enquiries are being made constantly.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What enquiries have they made and what is the result of those enquiries?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, he has not answered my question.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know from the Honourable Member whether milk products are exported to other countries?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have answered that in part (c) by saying: 'No, Sir'.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

LICENSED SALT DEALERS IN BIHAR

952. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the total number of licensed salt dealers in Bihar and the number of Muslim licensees as promised in his reply to the starred question No. 710, put by me on the 30th March, 1944, as it stood then, and also as it stands at present; and

(b) whether he has given any relief to Muslims in Bihar in the grant of salt licenses particularly in the districts of North Bihar, if so, to what extent in the districts of Tirhut Division say: Saron, Champaran, Muzaffarpore and Darbhanga?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Information has been called for from the Bihar Government and their reply is still awaited.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Honourable Member has received any complaints from any part of Bihar that the salt supply is not satisfactory?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have not received any complaint.

REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF BARKAT MIAN WHOLESALE SUGAR DEALER IN MUZAFFARPORE

953. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member please refer to his promises made on the 31st March, 1944, during the debate on the Adjournment Motion—page 1846—to enquire into the representations made on behalf of Barkat Mian, an old wholesale sugar dealer in the district of Muzaffarpore and state:

(a) the result of his enquiry on the receipt of various representations from me;

(b) whether it is a fact that one more wholesale sugar dealer is going to be added in the Hajipur sub-division of the district of Muzaffarpore;

(c) the number of Marwari wholesale dealers in sugar and salt in the district of Muzaffarpore; and

(d) the reasons for the grant of wholesale licenses to Marwaris from Ajmer-Merwara and not to the Biharis for the wholesale dealing in salt, sugar and other commodities in Bihar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I represented the matter to the Bihar Government and they have replied that Maulvi Abdul Barkat was in the list of approved importers of sugar from sugar factories for the district of Muzaffarpur from July to October, 1943. Subsequently, under the instructions of the Bihar Government the list of approved importers was curtailed by the District Officers and Maulvi Abdul Barkat was not included in the revised list as he was not deemed to satisfy the conditions prescribed by the Provincial Government. It was also recorded that he does not carry on business in Hajipur itself but in the interior of the sub-division. So far as retail distribution is concerned, Maulvi Abdul Barkat is still one of the approved retail distributors for the Lalgunj area. His monthly quota is the highest retail quota for the sub-division.

(b) Yes.

(c) Three for sugar. Information regarding the number of wholesale dealers in salt is still awaited from the Bihar Government.

(d) The Bihar Government state that where licences have been granted to Marwari firms they have been selected on the ground that they are well established in the trade in Bihar and financially sound.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether the Honourable Member intends to ask the Bihar Government to give the new license to Abdul Barkat?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I did not catch him.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member ask the Bihar Government to look into the claim of Abdul Barkat as one new license dealer's vacancy has been created.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already drawn the attention of the Bihar Government to the claims of Barkat Mian.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: But here the post of a dealer has been created in the sub-division in which Barkat Mian lives.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It would be wrong of me to recommend a particular candidate for a specific vacancy.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is there any special qualification for a person wanting such a license?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The qualifications are that he should be able to distribute sugar and must be solvent and must have a good financial standing.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is it a fact that only those people who are loyal to Government will get preference for this license?

(No answer.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

QUOTA PER DAY PER ADULT OF FOODSTUFFS IN CERTAIN CITIES

953. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the quota per day per adult of foodstuffs given under statutory rationing in the following places (in ounces) in January, 1945:

(i) Delhi, (ii) Cawnpore, (iii) Bombay, (iv) Madras, (v) Calicut, (vi) Calcutta, (vii) Mangalore, (viii) Poona, (ix) Dharwar, and (x) Bangalore?

(b) Is it the policy of the Government of India to maintain different standard at different places? If not, what steps are taken to standardise the quota and by which time it is going to be achieved?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the resolutions on rationing passed at the Fifth All-India Food Conference, which is attached to the memorandum on the food situation already placed on the table of the House.

Statement showing the Daily Quota per adult under Rationing in the different towns in January 1945

Name of Town	Size of ration per adult per day for foodgrains	Remarks
Delhi	18 ozs.	No provision for supplementary ration.
Cawnpore	16 "	
Bombay City	14.9 "	
Poona	14.3 "	
Dharwar	17.1 "	
Calcutta	18.3 "	No provision for supplementary ration.
Madras	16.96 "	
Calicut	12 "	
Mangalore	15.84 "	
Bangalore City	(1) 11.84 "	(1) Non-labouring class.
	(2) 14.24 "	(2) Labouring class.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to (a) in how many provinces is a quota of more than one pound per individual per day given?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I refer the Honourable Member to the statement.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is a very simple question. In how many provinces is a quota of more than one pound a day per individual given?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The statement is before the Honourable Member.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is not before the Honourable Member!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is before the House. I shall require time as I will have to analyse the statement.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I do not hear him.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Looking through the statement there are only three provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is he so heavy that he cannot stand up?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Order, order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, yes. The Honourable Member should order him.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the three provinces in which the ration of more than a pound a day per individual is allotted?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not prepared to answer that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He is not in a position to answer.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But he has laid a statement on the table.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If he has laid a statement on the table, the Honourable Member can look it up himself. Next question.

PRICES OF RICE, WHEAT AND BAJRA IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS

962. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the purchasing and selling prices of (i) rice, (ii) wheat and (iii) bajra in the following districts in the month of January 1945:

Malabar, South Kanara, Bellary, Nilgiris, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bijapur, North Kanara, and Coorg?

(b) What is the reason for large difference in the districts of Dharwar and Bijapur between the purchasing prices of these commodities and the retail selling prices?

(c) What steps are taken for proper storage of food grains in the above districts?

(d) How many of these areas have food councils, and are they meeting? If so, how many times a month?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Provincial Governments and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

LACK OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SHOPS IN NEW DELHI

970. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is the Honourable the Leader of the House aware of the difficulties which the Members of the Assembly residing in New Delhi are daily experiencing owing to the want of fruit and vegetable shops in New Delhi?

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, does he propose to arrange for such shops to remove those difficulties?

(c) Is he aware of the fact that there are already some grain and fuel shops near the Western Court in New Delhi? If so, why are the Members of the Assembly given permits to purchase fuel from old Delhi?

(d) Is he aware of the fact that there are no doctors, Hakims or Vaidyas and medical stores in some central place in New Delhi? If so, will he consider the desirability of having all these arrangements in order to enable the Members of the Assembly residing in New Delhi to get medical aid readily in cases of emergency?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) There are fruit and vegetable shops in the Gole Market and Paharganj from which the residents of New Delhi normally draw their supplies. The difficulties, if any, which the Members of the Assembly are experiencing are common to most residents of the New Delhi area, including the members of the Executive Council.

(b) The New Delhi Municipal Committee considered the question of opening a vegetable shop near the Western Court but were unable to find a suitable site.

(c) Members of the Assembly were given special permits to enable them to obtain supplies regularly from the wholesale Depots direct. In the Western Court Area there is only one fuel shop which has already got about 5,000 cards registered with it and does not possess accommodation sufficient to undertake any more registrations. The issue of permits on the wholesale Depots at the Ajmere Gate is intended to ensure that M.L.As. are able to secure sufficient split firewood at one time to last for at least a month, whereas they might find supplies from the ordinary fuel shops in smaller quantities, less reliable.

(d) No, Sir. There are a number of Government, Government aid and Municipal hospitals and dispensaries in New Delhi at which the Members of the Legislature can easily obtain medical aid. Besides there are several doctors, Hakims and Vaidas in private practice in New Delhi.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it a fact that the shop behind Western Court does not supply standard rice, but rice which is of a very inferior quality?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member make an inquiry into this grievance?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If the Honourable Member will make a specific complaint, I shall certainly look into the matter.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: I say that the quality of rice supplied by the shop behind Western Court is not of the proper quality. I make this complaint on the floor of the House.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: What particular commodity is the Honourable Member referring to?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Rice, flour and all other things supplied by this shop.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: In regard to rice I want to explain that we are supplying in Delhi *Begmi* rice.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: We want *Nawabi* rice.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Since *Begmi* rice is considered inferior by many people we are now trying to get some *Basmati* rice.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Is the Honourable Member aware that the rice supplied by the ration shop is broken rice and not full rice?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I went round the ration shops three days ago, and I think the rice supplied by most of the shops appeared to be extremely good.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Does the Honourable Member know that rice supplied to certain persons is different in quality to rice supplied to others. There are allegations that Members of the Assembly who, because they can create trouble, get better quality, but that other people get inferior quality.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is likely that those who can give trouble, generally get better rice.

FREEZING OF STANDING PADDY CROPS IN TANJORE DISTRICT

973. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Grain Purchasing Officer of Tanjore has frozen the standing crops of all peasants growing paddy in the whole of the Tanjore District.

(b) Is it a fact that he has no adequate supply of officers or subordinates of sufficient pay and responsibility to reach all the villages and superintend the reaping, heaping and harvesting of the paddy crop of the lakhs of peasants concerned?

(c) Is it a fact that, as a result, he is obliged to depend upon the ill-paid and often illiterate village officials including watchmen to superintend harvest operations?

(d) In view of the hardships being caused to peasants, do Government propose either to withdraw this policy of freezing the paddy crop of a whole district even before it is harvested or to purchase the whole crop themselves at a specified price?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No, Sir. The Freezing Order applies only to 75 per cent. of the total yield of crops of *Ryots* owning or cultivating four acres and above in villages within a belt of six miles of the District borders and also in the coastal villages within a belt to six miles.

(b) and (c). The Grain Purchase Officer has sufficient staff for the work connected with the Freezing Order. He has also Revenue Subordinates to help him. Harvesting operations are not supervised.

(d) The Order is intended to prevent smuggling, particularly to Ceylon and does not entail any undue hardship on the peasants.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that although according to Government only 75 per cent. is being frozen, the remaining 25 per cent. is not available to the peasant until the crop is harvested and 75 per cent. of the produce is delivered to the Grains Purchasing Officer?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know the exact position.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member make a more detailed investigation into the matter? Evidently he has not got definite information about the actual facts there.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall make inquiries if the Honourable Member opposite would let me know what exactly he wants.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Thank you.

Friday 16th March, 1945

STEPS FOR EASING MILK SHORTAGE

1036. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What steps has the Honourable the Food Member taken to ease the position with regard to the storage of milk in India.

(b) What was the total import of (i) whole milk powder, and (ii) skimmed milk powder, into India in 1942/43, 1943/44 and 1944/45 (upto the 31st December 1944)?

(c) How is it that Government are encouraging the import of skimmed milk powder instead of whole milk powder, which would occupy the same shipping space, but which would have greater nutritive value?

(d) Have Government any information as to the source of supply of milk to (i) the Army, (ii) the American soldiers, and (iii) refugees, prisoners of war and other extraneous elements in the population?

(e) What steps have Government taken to represent to the American authorities to arrange for their own supply of milk, instead of falling on that which should go to the civil population of India?

(f) Have any milch cattle been imported into India for the Army by Government or by other parties?

(g) If so, what is the total number so imported since the beginning of the war?

(h) Have Government taken any steps for increasing the import of milch cattle and of whole milk powder?

(i) If so, what are these steps, from what sources, and when will these imports take place?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Attempts are being made by the Central and Provincial Governments to increase the production of milk in India. Imports of processed milk have also been arranged with H. M. G. as follows for the year 1945:—

Full cream sweetened condensed milk, 2,000 tons.

Skim Milk powder, 2,000 tons.

Infants and Invalids milk foods, 1,631 tons.

We have represented to H. M. G. that we require additional quantities and negotiations are proceeding. We hope to be able to obtain additional quantities as follows:

Full Cream, 1,000 tons.

Spray skim, 3,750 tons.

(b) A statement is placed on the table.

(c) Government are not encouraging the import of skim milk powder, but the total available world supplies of processed milk are unequal to the demand and we have to secure what we can from supplies available. Skim milk powder is to be used in catering establishments in urban areas in order to set free supplies of fresh milk for distribution to the vulnerable sections of the community.

(d) 20 per cent. of the total demands of the Defence Forces and prisoners of War is met by local purchase; the remainder is supplied by the military dairy farms or by importation. There are no special arrangements for meeting the demand of refugees

(e) Supplies to American troops are made up to a specified limit from the military dairy farms. The remainder of their requirements are met already by importation. I understand that in connection with our demand for imports for civil consumption H. M. G. are already endeavouring to obtain additional quantities from America.

(f) None by the Government and a few by the Army. The information whether other parties have imported any milch cattle is not readily available.

(g) 96 bulls and 175 heifers have been imported by the Army since the outbreak of the War.

(h) No steps have been taken to increase the import of milch cattle from abroad since such importation in existing circumstances is impracticable on any appreciable scale. As regards the import of whole milk powder, please see reply to (c) above.

(i) Does not arise.

Import of whole milk and skimmed milk powder into India

Item	Unit	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45 Upto 31st Dec.
1. Whole Milk Powder	cwt.	7,777	4,440	8,921
2. Skimmed Milk Powder	cwt.	4,964	3,718	1,621

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that their prohibition of the slaughter of prime cows and buffaloes, which pleased this House, is not being properly carried out by the provinces and by the municipalities, and that the private interests of those who deal in cattle is destroying public interest in this direction?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of the fact, but if the Honourable Member will bring any cases to my notice I will draw the attention of the provincial Governments concerned.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member not aware that Bengal has not carried out this prohibition and the Government of India themselves had a complaint to make against them?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I cannot reply to that question off-hand; I am not aware of it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know why milch cattle are not imported into India in view of the acute shortage of milk in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already given the reasons in my answer.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have Government taken any steps to increase the number of dairy farms in this country for the purpose of producing more milk?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, Sir. I believe the provinces have started a number of dairy farms. I am told that financial assistance in the form of interest-free loans has been given in one or two provinces to co-operative milk societies, and they have generally assisted in the improvement of milk supplies.

RESTRICTIONS OF SUGAR PRODUCTION IN BIHAR

1040. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Food Member been drawn to the following remark by Rai Bahadur Svammandan Sahaya, C.I.E., President of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce in his address on the 25th January 1945:

"The fixation of price of sugar and sugarcane has been the cause of bitter comments in the press and on the platform and I would not tax your patience by enumerating them here, but there is one thing which I might usefully point out, that it was not long hence that, in spite of the best efforts on the part of the mill-owners, they were not allowed to crush all the cane that was available and some cane had actually to be burnt or used as fodder in this Province. An apprehension of over production of sugar was given as the cause for this decision. Later on it was found that the apprehension was not justified and that we had to export so much sugar that there was actually dearth of sugar in the following years and in some parts of the country sugar was sold even at the rate of Rs. 40 per maund!"

(b) Under what circumstances are the facts stated here correct?

(c) Under what circumstances was the production of sugar artificially restricted and how much production was lost?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) The speaker was referring to the year 1940-41 when the sugarcane industry was a provincial responsibility and there was no central control over sugar.

(c) In the year 1939-40 there was over-production of sugar leading to a ruinous fall in prices. The provincial Governments of U. P., and Bihar, therefore, found it necessary in the interest of the sugar industry and of cane growers, in the following year to restrict production with a view to stabilise the market and enable the financing of production by Banks to be effected. Though no statistics are readily available this policy resulted in some of the available cane crop being destroyed on the ground.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the policy of the Government when such surplus cane is either destroyed or is supposed to be used as fodder? Do Government give any sort of compensation to the peasants affected?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am afraid I am not concerned with that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who is concerned?

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljey: How did the Government come to the conclusion that there was surplus sugarcane and it should be destroyed?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As I have already stated, at that time sugar was not Central responsibility. This was done by the Provincial Governments of United Provinces and Bihar.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the very serious state of affairs disclosed in this matter, may I know what steps Government are taking to ensure that such affairs do not arise once again even when the control is with the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As the Honourable Member knows the Central control is only a war-time control, and I do not think there is any chance of this sort of thing arising during the war.

EXPORT AND PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

1041. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state how much sugar has been permitted to be exported from India and by whom?

(b) What was the total amount of sugar produced in India before the war in the year 1938-39?

(c) What was the total consumption in India before the war, what is the total amount produced now, and what is the total consumption now?

(d) What are the factors leading to the increased consumption of sugar in India?

(e) Are they due to the increased British army, the Americans, the refugees from Poland to Hongkong, the Italian and other prisoners of war?

(f) Are Government aware that sugar ration is extremely low in many parts of the country and there are complaints that the poor people never see any sugar?

(g) What is the price of sugar per maund compared with the price of sugar before the war?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) In the year 1943-44 a quota of about 17,000 tons of sugar for export to neighbouring countries was permitted by the Government of India. The figures of export for the years previous to 1943-44 are not readily available, but as far as I am aware the exports were less than 25,000 tons a year.

(b) 7,67,000 tons of sugar were produced in 1938-39.

(c) The civilian consumption of sugar before the war was approximately 11 lakhs tons a year. 12.2 lakhs tons of sugar was produced in 1943-44 and 10.5 lakhs tons made available for civilian consumption in that year. The civilian

quota for consumption this year has not yet been finalised as the exact production is not known.

(d) and (e).- The factors leading to increased consumption are increased population, increased requirements of the Defence Services, higher purchasing capacity of the public and the large increase in urban population, particularly industrial, leading to diversion of the demand from *gur* to sugar. The requirements of refugees and prisoners of war are relatively very small.

(f) Government are aware that the sugar ration is low in many parts of the country. But it must be remembered that poorer people still generally consume *gur* which is unrationed.

(g) The present price of sugar is about Rs. 16/4/- per maund as compared to Rs. 11 per maund in the immediate pre-war period.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the answer of the Honourable Member, may I know whether Government will take steps to prevent the export of sugar from this country as there is a very serious outcry from many parts of the country that the sugar ration given is ridiculously small?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, Sir, I am myself most anxious. But some of the countries which receive sugar from us are Afghanistan, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, and Tibet. They have always depended on India for sugar supplies and I think the House would agree that it would go very hard on them if we refused them the small supplies which we give them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Which are the other countries? These countries having been dependent on India for sugar, I agree you should not cut them out. I refer to the export of sugar by sea. Will Government stop all such exports?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The other countries are the Near East, Saudi Arabia, South-East Persia; those are the major recipients.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Were these countries dependent on India before the War?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to answer that question.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Do the figures that are given refer to refined sugar or to any other sugar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: What other sugar?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is it refined sugar or the khansari sugar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Not as far as I know.

SCARCITY OF SALT IN BENGAL AND OTHER PLACES

1042. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the amount of salt imported into India in the year 1938-39?

(b) When did salt imports into India from abroad cease?

(c) Have Government noticed the public outcry with regard to the scarcity and high prices of salt in Bengal and other places?

(d) What steps have Government taken to ease the salt situation?

(e) Have they provided special facilities to salt producers in Western India? If so, what are they?

(f) Have they fixed rates for salt as supplied to Bengal? If so, what are they?

(g) Did Government make any attempt to supply salt from Sambhar, Khewra or Pachhbbhadra by rail in increased quantities?

(h) If so, what were those quantities and for which districts were these taken?

(i) What is the price of salt in Calcutta today as compared with the price before the war?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) 312,232 tons.

(b) Salt is still being imported from abroad.

(c) Yes. There was temporary scarcity leading to high prices in Bengal and Assam.

(d) The Government of India have arranged for adequate and regular imports of salt into Calcutta from the Middle East and the West Coast ports. Steps have also been taken to improve despatches of salt to the districts from Calcutta. The Bengal Government are now exercising full control over all arrival of salt, their prices and distribution. Provincial Governments are also building up reserve stocks of three months.

(e) Yes. The Government of India have allowed the salt producers in Western India a quota for export to the Eastern provinces and have arranged necessary shipping.

(f) The Bengal Government have fixed the ex-ship price at Rs. 300 per 100 maunds of all imported salt.

(g) No, firstly because the rail haul to Bengal and Assam would be too long for present transport conditions, and secondly, because the finer salt imported from West Coast ports and Middle East countries is preferred in Bengal.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) The present retail price of salt in Calcutta is three annas per seer as against pre-war price of one anna per seer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if shipping is available for imports into India from the Middle East and why are the Western India producers starved for shipping space?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is putting more than one question in the supplementary.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I want to know why preference is given to Middle Eastern Countries in shipping as against the West Coast of India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Bengal has been used to the Middle East salt.

Mr. Hooseinbhooy A. Lalljee: May I take it that the Middle East includes Aden because out of the 5½ lakhs, Aden is importing 2½ lakhs.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: May be, I am unable to answer that off-hand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member consider beginning charity at home by favouring salt in the West Coast of India and giving it shipping?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: My charity always begins at home.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

(At this stage Mr. K. C. Neogy rose in his seat.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question has been called.

WASTE OF FOODGRAINS IN GOVERNMENT STORAGES

1044. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) what has been estimated waste of foodgrains in Government Storages in the years 1943-44 and 1944-45;

(b) in what Provinces this waste has been most marked and for what reasons; and

(c) what steps have been taken to prevent these wastes in future?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). An accurate estimate of the loss of foodgrains in storage is not possible. Deterioration or destruction is caused by insects, rodents, and moisture, most of which can be traced to defective storage or to exposure to weather before storage. Total loss is comparatively rare, since deteriorated foodgrains can be reconditioned, and if unfit for human consumption can still be used for fodder or starch. Serious losses were suffered during 1944 in Bombay, amounting to about 22,000 tons owing to the explosion in the Bombay docks; in Karachi, amounting to about

3,075 tons owing to exposure to unprecedented rainfall, and in Bengal, amounting to about 3,664 tons owing to unfavourable climatic conditions, and the lack of storage and transport sufficient to cope with the large quantities of grain despatched during and after the Bengal famine

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to part (d) of his question No 152 on the 13th February 1945.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if one of the main reasons for this loss was the absence of proper receptacles for storing grains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know what the Honourable Member means by 'receptacles'.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I mean godowns or warehouses for storing foodgrains

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already stated

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What steps have been taken by the Government of India since then to set up proper and adequate warehouses to avoid this wastage in future

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already answered a question on this subject.

GHEE PURCHASING AGENCY OR MESSRS. ALOPI PRASAD AND SONS

1046. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) what area including Indian States besides the whole of the Punjab, Gwalior and U. P. has been allotted to Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons for the purchase of ghee as Government Agents; since what period they have been working as such in those areas;

(b) whether any advances were made to them for the purchase of ghee during the period they had been acting as Government Agents; if so, what amounts and for what period;

(c) whether empty tins are being supplied by Government to them; if so, what has been the largest number supplied, what the number of empty tins at present lying with them is and in what districts;

(d) whether any scrutiny of the stock of empty tins is made by any responsible officer; if so, how many times during the year this scrutiny of Government empty tins is made; and

(e) whether any auditing of this firm's accounts is made; if so, how many times during the year, and whether a statement of this auditing will be placed on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) In addition to the areas mentioned in the question, Rajputana (excluding Jaisalmer and Jodhpur States) and Central India Agency (excluding Bhopal and Rewa States) have since 1942 been allotted to Messrs. Alopi Prasad as our Agents for the purchase of ghee.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) Empty tins sufficient to cover a month's requirements at each market are supplied by Government to the Agents. Due to scarcity of tins and transport difficulties, the number of tins allotted to each market may be more or less than the requirements of one month. I cannot undertake to collect information of the number of tins held by the Agents at each of the 77 markets involved.

(d) An account of the stock of empty tins issued and filled tins returned is kept by the Officer-in-Charge.

(e) The Firm's accounts are audited twice a year. The answer to the latter part of the question is in the negative.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know whether, since the contract was given to Messrs. Alopi Prasad for the period mentioned, any tenders were called for from other merchants or contractors? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to answer the question without notice.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The notice is there

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question

**LIMITED NUMBER OF PURCHASE LICENCES FOR GROUNDNUTS, ETC., ISSUED IN
MADRAS**

1064. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that licences are given by the Civil Supplies Commissioner, Madras, only to one or two contractors or traders to purchase groundnuts, cake, oil, *gur* or other agricultural commodity from the whole or a specified part of a district and no one else is allowed to purchase such commodities;

(b) whether any minimum or any set scale of prices are fixed for such commodities; and, if so, on what basis and in consultation with whom—the local trade or peasants; and, if not, why not; and.

(c) why Government have denied the benefit to peasants of either competition between traders or a fixed and enforceable price for such commodities?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Provincial Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

EXPORT OF Gur TO MIDDLE EAST

1065. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Government contemplate allowing exports of *gur* from India to the Middle East countries?

(b) If so, what are the total quantities involved, giving details, country and quantitywise?

(c) Was *gur* ever exported before? If so, what are the details of the quantities despatched to various countries?

(d) Do Government contemplate distribution of *gur* export quotas to different firms on certain basis? If so, what are they?

(e) Do Government contemplate following in case of *gur* exports the basic principle of granting export permits to firms which have previously exported the stuff, and which principle they generally follow in case of other commodities

(f) If the above basic principle is not to be followed in the case of *gur* exports, what are the reasons for deviation in this particular matter?

(g) What are the quantities of *gur* export quotas contemplated to be distributed to the firms of different communities?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b) and (d) to (g). A proposal to export *gur* is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(c) Yes, to a small extent. A statement showing the export of *gur* to certain countries in the Middle East is placed on the table of the House.

Statement showing exports of gur to certain countries in the Middle East

Name of country	Quantity of <i>gur</i> in tons exported during the year. —		
	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
1. Iran . . . . .	..	11.0	1,096.0
2. Iraq . . . . .	..	211.0	269.0
3. Bahrain	0.3	0.2	..
4. Trucial coast	0.7	77.5	9.0
5. Saudi Arabia . . . . .	..	1.0	..
6. Hydramout	241.0	4.0	..
7. Aden	41.0	0.5	..

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the gur is being exported through the instrumentality of the U. K. C. C.?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Then who are the parties who will be given a license to export?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already answered that question. The proposal is under consideration by the Government of India and I am not in a position to make a statement at this stage, but I wish to assure the Honourable Member that it will not be the U. K. C. C.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why export it at all when this country needs it?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

GHEE PURCHASING AGENCIES

1066. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** (a) Will the Honourable the food Member kindly state whether all the area comprising the Punjab, U. P. and the adjoining area of Indian States, like Gwalior and different States of Central India as well as different States of Rajputana, are assigned by Government to one agent for purchasing ghee since the last four years and before that for a number of years for the whole of India? If so, why have all other well-known firms throughout India been debarred so long from so acting?

(b) Is it a fact that the policy of Government is to invite, from time to time, well-known firms to offer their services as agents for purchase of ghee? If so, why has that policy not been given effect to in all cases, and in what cases have they deviated from this policy and for what reasons?

(c) Have Government been satisfied with the working results of all their agents who are and were acting as their ghee purchasing agents? If so, have they been able to gather the quantities required of them, and has this quantity been sufficient to meet the requirements of army, and further why is it that in recent years Indian army is supplied more and more vegetable product?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Answer to the first part is in the affirmative. Owing to satisfactory performance it has not been necessary to consider replacement of the firm in question in this area.

(b) Yes; an exception was made in the case of Messrs. Alopi Prashad and Sons Ltd., for the reason stated in my reply to part (a).

(c) Government have been satisfied with the performance of their agents, except those who have been replaced. Procurement has been up to the requirements of the Army.

Increase in supply of vegetable product is due to limited amount of good quality milk-ghee available, and the needs of the civilian population.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know the names of the agents who have been replaced?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is one firm which I can name just now, and that is the Ghee Supply Company, Limited, of Calcutta; they were replaced for the reason given in answer to part (c).

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What were the reasons which made the Government cancel the agency? Is it anything particular or mere dissatisfaction?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already stated that we were not satisfied with their work.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Exactly. What was the fault of the agents?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to go into the matter at this stage, as certain inquiries are in progress.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know since when Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons are enjoying the monopoly of ghee supply?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Alopī Prashad concern was appointed the sole ghee purchasing agent for the military in 1926.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Long live Alopī Prashad!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Am I to understand that this particular company has been enjoying a monopoly from 1926 till now?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that this firm of Alopī Prashad is responsible for the adulteration of good ghee in the neighbourhood between Delhi and Agra and it is impossible on account of the influence of this firm to get good ghee in the neighbourhood?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not accept the suggestion contained in the question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If the Honourable Member is not aware of the fact that good ghee is not available within this area, then the Honourable Member is not familiar with the conditions of life of the Department over which he presides—if he does not know an elementary fact that anybody knows.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a matter of opinion. I feel that I know my business much more than the Honourable Member sitting there.

(Some Honourable Members rose to ask questions.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. It is 12 o'clock, and this interesting matter must be dropped.

(b) Written Answers

GHEE PURCHASING AGENCIES

1067. *Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly state if it is a fact that, while one of the ghee supplying agents has been continually enjoying the purchase monopoly for Government in a very large area of India for several years, the other agents' area is being restricted and the quantities are also being reduced? If so, why is this discrimination both with regard to area and quantity?

(b) Is it a fact that very recently by public notice applications were invited from well-known firms to act as purchasing agents for ghee? If so, for what period were they appointed, and is it a fact that their activities are being suddenly curtailed?

(c) What was the number of the ghee purchasing agents, and why was a new agent appointed when the activities of those serving were to be curtailed?

(d) Will Government state the areas including States from which different agents are now required to purchase?

(e) Do Government propose to revise the allocation of areas between different agents so as to give equal opportunities to all the different agents to make purchases?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Prior to 1942 one firm had the sole agency for the whole of India. When the Army demand increased other firms were introduced to make supplies. In consequence of a reduction in the Army demand recently some agents areas have been restricted and all agents quantities have been reduced. On the 21st February 1945 two firms were given three months notice of termination of their agreements. In July 1944 applications were invited by advertisement. The period of appointment is one year.

(c) Four agents were functioning when the new agent was appointed. His appointment on the 1st December 1944 was necessary in order to operate the Madras Area. The curtailment in the total demand was not known at that time.

(d) A statement is placed on the table.

(e) I am re-examining the matter.

Name of the Agent	Area of operation as on 1st March 1945.
Alopi Prashad & Sons Ltd.	United Provinces, Punjab, Punjab State, Gwalior State, Central India States and certain Rajputana States.
Piloo D. Sidhva & Co.	Kathiawar, Baroda State, Palanpur State and Gujarat Agency.
Hooseinbhoy Sons & Co.	Central Provinces & Berar, Rewa State and Hyderabad State.
Sind Ghee Purchasing Agency	S'nd, Las Bela State, Ja'salmer State, Kalat and Baluch'stan.
British India Trading Co.	Madras Province.

CERTAIN ORDER OF RATIONING CONTROLLER, DELHI

1070. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state whether, in pursuance of the reply given by him on the 28th February, 1945, to question No. 542, regarding a recent order of the Rationing Authorities, Delhi, he proposes to advise the Delhi Administration to suspend all the pending demands for security deposit made on the business establishments till such time as the matter is finally settled by him?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The answer is in the affirmative.

FIXING SUGAR QUOTAS IN DELHI

1071. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the principle, if any, guiding the Rationing Authorities in Delhi in deciding the amounts of sugar quota to be granted to various applicants?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I assume that the Honourable Member is referring to the allotment of quotas to restaurants and other establishments by the Delhi Rationing authorities. For those establishments which were in existence before the introduction of rationing, quotas are based on the number of customers and the actual consumption of the establishment during the previous year. Establishments which were not in existence at the commencement of rationing, are not entitled to any quota but allotments to them are made only for exceptional reasons.

Wednesday, 21st March, 1945

DEFICIT DISTRICTS IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

1176. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

- the deficit districts in the Madras Presidency;
- the deficit in the Madras Presidency taken as a whole; and
- whether the deficit is of rice or millets or both, and how he has attempted to make up this deficit?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) On the basis of estimated production and consumption, the following districts were considered deficit in rice, Cholum (Jowar) and Cumbu (Bajra) during 1944-45:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Vizagapatam. | 7. Madura. |
| 2. Anantapur. | 8. Ramnad. |
| 3. Madras. | 9. Tinnevely. |
| 4. Chingleput. | 10. Malabar. |
| 5. Salem. | 11. S. Kanara. |
| 6. Coimbatore. | 12. The Nilgiris. |

(b) The total deficit declared by the Madras Government is about 210,000 tons.

(c) The deficit is in rice, wheat and millets and to enable the Madras Government to meet the situation, a total quota of 192,400 tons of wheat, millets and rice has been allotted to them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know for what year this calculation is? Is he aware that in the current year, even in Tanjore, a good rice producing area, there has been a failure of crops?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: This estimate relates to 1944-45: we have not got all the figures for the current year yet.

REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

1177. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether he has received representations to the effect that the prices fixed for foodgrains at present are not economical to the producers of these foodgrains; and

(b) whether he has considered these representations; if so, with what effect?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Two such representations were received, one from the Andhra Foodgrains Producers Council and the Andhra Provincial Ryots Association, and the other from the Coorg Provincial Co-operative Marketing Federation.

The ceiling prices for rice in force in Madras during 1943-44 were examined with reference to the present costs of cultivation and the cost of living index; and it was decided that there was no justification for raising them, except in the case of first sort rice the price of which was raised by 6 annas a maund.

Coorg prices were raised from Rs. 115 per cart load to Rs. 125 (from Rs. 5-4-1 to Rs. 5-11-0 per maund), as a result of the second representation.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether these calculations are based on the presumption that these agriculturists get their implements for agriculture and other things at controlled prices?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No; we take all the current factors into account.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if this question was put before the Price Advisory Committee and is there any one on that committee representing these districts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know whether it was placed before the Price Advisory Committee—I have not got the information here with me.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member not in a position to say whether it was or was not put before the Price Advisory Committee? Evidently he must be presiding over that body.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not preside over the Price Advisory Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that while in several districts freezing operations are resorted to, in many districts of the Madras Presidency there is no demand at all for paddy or rice because the rice mill owners had purchased paddy at too cheap prices at the harvest times and they are not purchasing anything now?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the present prices prevailing actually in the market are 25 per cent. lower than the ceiling prices that they have fixed?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am equally not aware of that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not open to the Honourable member to make inquiries, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, I have taken a note.

SUSPENSIONS IN DEPUTED STAFF BY CONTROLLER OF RATIONING, DELHI

1207. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many of the deputed staff were suspended from service by the Controller of Rationing, Delhi, so far, and for what reasons;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the suspended staff was prohibited from leaving the Municipal Limits of Delhi; if so, under what authority;

(c) whether it is a fact that the suspensions of the deputed officials are being inflicted in spite of the protest of the parent offices that the Controller of Rationing, Delhi, is not authorised to impose such punishments; and

(d) whether it is a fact that even subsistence allowance was not paid to the suspended officials for months together?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Eleven for neglect of duty or misconduct.

(b) Yes. Officials under suspension are subject to the usual rules under which Government servants are not allowed to leave the station without permission.

(c) The local administration is the controlling authority for purposes of discipline in the case of all the Controller of Rationing's staff. The rest of the Honourable Member's question does not arise.

(d) No. Subsistence allowance was given under the rules in all cases of suspension.

PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT IN DELHI RATIONING ORGANISATION

1208. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state (a) the number of persons given physical punishment in the Delhi Rationing Organisation;

(b) how many of the deputed staff were given promotion, and what the difference in their pay before and after promotion in each case is;

(c) how many outsiders were recruited for the higher appointments over the heads of qualified and experienced deputed staff who came under the three per cent. scheme; and

(d) how many of those who were taken from outside as officers in the Rationing Organisation are Matriculates, Non-Matriculates and Graduates?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No one.

(b) Eighty-one have been promoted, I cannot undertake to give the details of every case of promotion but I can say that the increase in pay amounted to Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 or even more in some cases.

(c) I am not sure what the Honourable Member means by the term "higher appointments". The claims of all deputed officials who show ability receive due attention when superior appointments in the Delhi Rationing Organization are made.

(d) All except two of the Gazetted Officers of the Organization are matriculates or have some superior educational qualification.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: What is the meaning of 'physical punishment' referred to in part (a) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know myself, but nobody has received this physical punishment.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that a case is pending in the Court against the Rationing officer for assaulting a deputed official?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of it.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member please enquire into it?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: All right, I will make further enquiries into the matter.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: With regard to part (c) of the question, may I know what is the number of deputed officials who have been given promotion?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have answered this question—81 have been promoted.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Are they all deputed officials?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes. That is in answer to part (b) of his question where he has said 'How many of the deputed staff were given promotion' and I have said 'Eighty-one have been promoted'.

(b) Written Answers.

REVERTING DEPUTED STAFF IN DECHI RATIONING OFFICE

1209. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Does the Honourable the Food Member propose to consider the case of the reversion of the officials deputed to the Delhi Rationing Office who are willing to go back to their parent office?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir. I regret that I cannot relieve them at present.

RESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, DELHI RATIONING AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

1210. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the present Administrative Officer, Delhi Rationing and Civil Supplies, has submitted his resignation? If so, do Government propose to consider the appointment of experienced and capable officers of the Government of India Secretariat having special knowledge of administration?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes. The Officer concerned, who belongs to the Punjab Civil Service has applied for permission to resign from Government Service but so long as his resignation is not accepted, the question of finding a substitute does not arise.

CROP FAILURE IN BIJAPUR DISTRICT

1213. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that in Bijapur District (Bombay Presidency) the crop has failed owing to the failure of rain and other seasonal factors this year;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure distribution of foodgrains in urban and rural areas;

(c) whether the procurement policy in this district is depleting the little grain stocks which the cultivators keep for their consumption; and

(d) whether the Bombay Government have been asked not to procure the stocks from cultivators in case they are short of their own requirements?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The crop has not failed.

(b) and (d). Do not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

AUTHORISED FIRMS DEALING IN SALT IN BIHAR

1214. *Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the authorised firms dealing in salt in the districts of Bihar;

(b) the quantity of salt supplied to each district of Bihar;

(c) if he is aware that the old and established salt dealers have not been given preference over one who never dealt in the said commodity in some of the districts;

(d) if he is aware that monopolies in salt trading have been given in some of the districts causing harassment and difficulty to the consumers and giving an impetus to the black marketing; and

(e) keeping in view the interest of the consumers, whether he proposes to abolish the monopoly; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). Information has been called for from the Bihar Government and their reply is still awaited.

POSITION *re* RATIONING, ETC., IN VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT

1221. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position in Vizagapatam District in regard to, (i) daily rations granted per adult in towns and rural areas, (ii) the date from which rural people are also granted 40 tolas (one lb.) per adult as in the case of urban people, and (iii) the prevalence and incidence of diseases, especially the new disease of boils and akin affliction;

(b) the provision of additional medical assistance;

(c) the importation of rice from Central Provinces and other areas into this deficit area;

(d) whether any efforts are being made to introduce compulsory rural rationing; if so, when it is expected to be achieved; and

(e) whether there are any non-official medical agencies—Allopathy or Ayurvedic—serving the local sufferers and what assistance is being given to them by Government?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) The size of the ration in the towns is just over 1 lb. Rationing has not yet been introduced in the rural areas.

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) I am informed that there is no marked increase in the incidence of any disease and mortality from June 1944 to date is only slightly above average.

(b) Additional medical assistance has been provided in the shape of medical relief centres mobile units, additional doctors, free kitchens and free distribution of clothing to destitutes.

(c) In the last 4½ months, 51,000 tons of rice have been imported into the district.

(d) Informal rationing in rural areas in four taluks will be introduced shortly and extended to all other taluks within 2 or 3 months

(e) Yes. The information regarding the assistance given to them by the Government is being obtained.

NON-REGISTRATION OF NEW FIRMS FOR SUPPLY OF POWDER CONDIMENT

1230. *Mr. Muhammad Ahsan: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that the Chief Director of Purchase ordered in August, 1943, that no new firms shall be registered for the supply of powder condiment? If so, why?

(b) How many firms which applied were refused registration as a result of the above order?

(c) How many new applications were received for registration of the above item, after the order? How many of them were refused consideration and which of them were considered, inspected and registered?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No such orders were issued by the Chief Director of Purchase who was at that time designated as Deputy Director General (Purchase).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

NARSARPUR FRUIT PRESERVING FACTORY

1231. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state when the Nasarpur Fruit Preserving Factory came into existence and when it began to function?

(b) What was the cost of the factory and what is the annual expenditure incurred in running the factory including all kinds of establishment?

(c) How much of the goods were prepared since the factory began to work, how much of them were declared fit for military consumption, how much of them were declared unfit and what is the market value of the goods declared unfit?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Nasarpur Factory was completed and started to work in September, 1944.

(b) The cost of the factory was Rs. 9,34,617 which was borne by Government. The running costs are not known, as they are borne by the contractor who operates the factory on a fixed price contract for the final product.

(c) 82 tons and 820 lbs. were produced, of which 10 tons and 100 lbs were accepted for military consumption, and the balance valued at Rs. 1,62,000 was rejected.

NARSARPUR FRUIT PRESERVING FACTORY

1232. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if the Nasarpur Factory is being proposed to be transferred to the civil authorities? If so, when and on what terms?

(b) Are the goods declared unfit for military use being sold in the market for the use of the civil public? If so, are the goods unfit for the use of the military personnel considered fit for human consumption? If so, how?

(c) Who is responsible for the loss sustained by Government in preparing goods that are not suitable for human consumption? Will an enquiry be made? If so, when, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The matter is under consideration. No definite terms have so far been settled.

(b) Yes. The canned fruit are sound and fit for consumption, but some did not satisfy the Army specifications which have regard to the special conditions for which they are required.

(c) The contractor is responsible for the rejected goods and will bear the loss if any. No enquiry is therefore necessary and no question of fixing responsibility arises.

DESIRABILITY OF MONTHLY RATIONING SYSTEM IN DELHI

1240. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the difficulty which he apprehends in permitting monthly ration supply system introduced in Delhi Province like Lahore where monthly ration system is in operation and is working satisfactorily?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The experiment has been tried in Lahore which is in a surplus area but has not proved popular. Delhi is a deficit area dependent on the movement of supplies from the Punjab. A monthly ration system in a deficit area requires the carrying of larger reserves and larger stocks by the retailers and wholesalers and this Delhi is not yet in a question to accept.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WRITTEN ANSWERS.

(Postponed from March, 5, 1945)

PURCHASE OF VEGETABLE GHEE

650. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the quantity of vegetable ghee purchased during January, 1944 to September, 1944, and from 1st October to the 31st December, 1944, and at what rates and from what parties and ensuring what percentage of profits to them?

(b) Is it a fact that because the Food Department was not able to procure sufficient milk ghee, the Indian Army was given during 1943-44 only 100 lbs. for two days in a week, and in 1944, for three days a week? Is it a fact that what is expected to be the position in 1945?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that Military Authorities had often opined that vegetable ghee is no substitute for milk ghee? In so, what steps have been taken to procure more milk ghee?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) The quantity of vegetable ghee purchased during January to September 1944 was 15,000 tons and during October to December 1944, 7,073 tons.

(ii) Payment for the supplies was made to each manufacturer according to cost of oil plus a uniform fixed processing charge of Rs. 333 per ton. This charge was inclusive of the cost of time and an average profit of about Rs. 100 per ton.

(iii) The supplies were obtained from all the 16 factories manufacturing the product in 1944; the allocation to each factory was made by the Vanspati Manufacturers' Association of India.

(b) Yes. Vegetable ghee had to be substituted in part for milk ghee in order to meet the demands of the Defence Forces without unduly taxing the supplies of milk ghee available for civilian population. It is regretted that information regarding ration scales for troops cannot be disclosed in the public interest.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. Food Department are taking all possible steps to procure as much milk ghee as possible for the Defence Services.

SCARCITY OF EDIBLE OILS AND VEGETABLE GHEE

651. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Minister please state if he is aware that there is a great scarcity and an essential need for edible oils and vegetable ghee both for the army and civil consumption? If so, what steps have Government taken and are taking to meet this demand?

(b) Are any steps being taken to get machinery to produce oil and vegetable ghee?

(c) What is the time usually taken by the Food Department to consider and permit applications for the importation of plants for its production?

(d) How many applications were received by the Food Department, during January to June, 1944, and from July to December, 1944, and how many were permitted?

(e) How many applications are pending disposal, and for what period and for what reasons?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am fully aware of the increased demand for edible vegetable oils and vanspati ghee. The Food Department has already assisted manufacturers to extend the capacity of existing plants by 12,000 tons per annum and has promoted the erection of new factories with an additional capacity of 20,000 tons per annum. The form, which assistance has taken, has been to accord manufacturers the priority necessary to obtain machinery from abroad and steel and building material in India itself. Apart from this assistance to vanspati manufacturers, the Department has supported the issue of licences for the importation of more than 100 expellers for crushing edible oils. An experienced officer of the Department was instructed to prepare a comprehensive report on which a long term plan could be based for the expansion of the industry. His report has been submitted and is under the active consideration of Government. In the meantime 101 applications for assistance in starting or expanding factories have been received and have been kept pending until decisions have been reached on the report to which I have referred. Of these, 22 are more than 6 months old and 12 between 3 and 6 months; the remainder are less than 3 months old.

CHEESE PURCHASING AGENTS

652. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Minister please state when, when recently they invited applications from well known firms

for acting as Ghee Purchasing Agents for the Central Provinces, Berar, Bihar, Bombay, Kathiawar, Sind and Madras, did they not invite applications for the United Provinces, Gwalior and the Punjab area?

(b) Is it a fact that Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons had held a ghee purchasing agency for a number of years from Military Department, and because of that they now continue to hold it from the Supply and Food Departments? If so, for how many years had Messrs. Alopi Prasad been acting as Ghee Purchasing Agents for the Military Department, and for how many continuous years have they been employed as such by the Supply and Food Departments?

(c) Do Government propose to invite applications from other well-known firms for acting as Ghee Purchasing Agents for Government for the above area? If so, when?

(d) Are the terms and conditions on which Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons are acting as Ghee Purchasing Agents different from those of other Agents? If so, in what respects, and why?

(e) What are the areas allotted to Messrs. Alopi Prasad for the purchase of ghee?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) In July, 1944, applications were invited for the appointment of Ghee Purchasing Agents for the areas for which agreements were due to expire on 31st August, 1944; none were invited for the U. P., Gwalior and the Punjab areas, as the existing agreement for these areas was not due to expire.

(b) and (e). Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons were appointed as Ghee Purchasing Agents to Government for all-Army requirements in 1929, when the requirements were small. They continued as such until 1942 since when their operations have been confined to the U. P., Gwalior and the Punjab areas.

(c) No; not at present.

(d) Yes. The principal difference is that Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons' agreement is the standing agency agreement terminable at nine months' notice. The remaining agreements are for a period of one year terminable at three months' notice.

Monday, 26th March, 1945

WEEKLY RATIONING IN NEW DELHI

1323. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Food please state:

(a) if it is a fact that rations can be purchased in New Delhi for a week at a time and if any person takes it for a lesser period he loses his right to buy rations again during that particular week;

(b) if he is aware that this entails great hardship on daily wage earners who find it difficult to purchase rations for a whole week at a time; and

(c) what arrangements have been made for this class of the population, and for beggars and others who have no settled places of residence?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No. Every ration card holder can draw his ration twice a week.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Daily wage earners, as well as beggars and other homeless people have been issued individual ration cards, and buy their rations twice a week.

EQUAL RATIONS OF WHEAT AND RICE TO VEGETARIANS AND NON-VEGETARIANS

1324. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the amount of rations of wheat and rice allotted to vegetarians and non-vegetarians is equal;

(b) if there is no rationing of meat; and

(c) if he proposes to consider the desirability of increasing the quantity of wheat and rice for those who are vegetarians?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Meat is not rationed.

(c) No, Sir.

SCARCITY OF FOODGRAINS IN HAZARIBAGH

1325. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Mr. Ram Narain Singh, a member of this Assembly, made an allegation in his speech during the discussion on the General Budget that in his constituency (Hazaribagh) people are eating roots and leaves;

(b) whether Government propose to supply them with subsidised grains; if it is due to economic difficulties and if it is due to non-availability of grains, whether Government propose to take adequate steps to supply them with necessary grains; and

(c) in how many places in the country people are obliged to eat roots and leaves from jungles?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Wherever I am satisfied that supplies of grain are inadequate I shall endeavour to remedy the deficiency. In the case of Bihar the supply position is reported by the Provincial Government to be satisfactory. As I have already informed the House an inter departmental committee is actively examining the whole question of the subsidisation of food.

RATION OF GRAINS PER HEAD PER DAY

1326. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the ration of grains per individual per day allowed in the various Provinces;

(b) whether it varies from Province to Province; if so, why;

(c) in how many Provinces a ration of more than 1 lb. per head per day is allowed; and

(d) whether in fixing the ration, they have considered the fact that labourers, especially those working on land, require more of grains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement is placed on the table.

(b) Yes. The scales of ration in different areas vary according to the supply position, and also depend on whether separate provision is made for supplementary rations for heavy manual workers.

(c) Seven.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Statement showing the size of ration in foodgrains per adult per day in lbs. in rationed areas

Provinces	Maximum	Minimum
1. Assam	1.14 lbs.	..
2. Bengal	1.19 "	1.14 lbs.
3. Bombay	1.0 "	0.79 "
4. U. P.	1.0 "	..
5. C. P.	1.0 "	..
6. N. W. F. P.	1.14 "	..
7. Punjab	1.0 "	..
8. Sind	1.14 "	..
9. Bihar . . . . .	.9 "	..
10. Orissa (Cuttack)	1.3 "	..
11. Madras	1.13 "	0.78 lbs.
12. Delhi	1.13 "	..
13. Ajmer-Merwara	1.0 "	..
14. Baluchistan	1.0 "	..

NON-ADULTS AGE LIMITS FOR RATIONING PURPOSES IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

1333. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that for purposes of rationing, statutory or otherwise, a non-adult is one below twelve and above two years of age, in the Madras Presidency; whereas in the Bombay Presidency he is one below six years entitled to half a unit of foodgrains;

(b) the central policy on the point;

(c) how and from where the children below two years are to get food; and

(d) if Government are prepared to lay down a consistent policy with regard to the point raised herein?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d). The policy of the Government of India has been embodied in a resolution adopted at the Fifth All-India Food Conference, namely "in all rationing schemes the definition of a child should be from the date of birth to the age of eight". All Provincial and State Governments are being asked to implement this resolution.

DISTRIBUTION OF SUGAR IN DHARWAR

1334. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar that is distributed in the town of Dharwar;

(b) the system and basis for distribution of sugar to (i) hotel-keepers, (i) restaurant-keepers, and (iii) householders;

(c) if it is a fact that restaurant-keepers are not getting enough sugar even to serve tea since two months; and

(d) if it is a fact that since one month no sugar is being given to restaurants in Dharwar; if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Sugar ration in Dharwar is one lb. per adult and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per child per fortnight.

(b) (i) and (ii). Hotel-keepers and restaurant-keepers are supplied with sugar on permits based on estimated consumption.

(iii) Householders receive supplies on *per capita* basis as in (a) above.

(c) Owing to a reduction in the Provincial sugar quota, the quantities allowed to the establishments, mainly sweetmeat sellers and to a lesser extent to the tea-shops, were reduced in February 1945. Some tea-shops, which used up their quota early, had to go without sugar in the second fortnight of February.

(d) No, Sir.

RATION PER ADULT LABOURER IN CERTAIN AREAS

1337. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the ration per adult labourer in, (i) coffee, tea, and rubber, betelnut and paddy estates in Coorg, (ii) coffee, tea and betelnut estates and paddy fields in Malabar, (iii) betelnut gardens, cardamom estate and paddy fields in South Kanara, (iv) paddy fields and betelnut estates in North Kanara, and (v) coffee and tea estates in Nilgiris;

(b) whether it is not a fact that estate owners are permitted to purchase and stock foodgrains for their labourers in Coorg and Nilgiris;

(c) whether it is true that no such permission is given to betelnut gardeners and cardamom estate owners in the district of South Kanara;

(d) if Government are aware that on account of these restrictions the betelnut gardeners and cardamom estate owners in South Kanara are unable to keep their labourers and that their cultivation is suffering; and that their labourers are migrating to Coorg; and

(e) if Government propose to lay down a common policy with regard to all matters contained herein?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) There is no statutory rationing in Coorg.

(ii) In Malabar Coffee and Tea Estates labour get one lb. rice and 0.27 lb. wheat per adult per day. Landholders and permanent farm servants on betelnut estates and paddy fields get one lb. of rice per adult per day.

(iii) In South Canara betelnut-gardens, cardamom estate and paddy fields labour get one lb. of foodgrains per adult per day.

(iv) There is no statutory rationing in the rural areas in North Kanara.

(v) Coffee and tea estates labour in Nilgiris are allowed 1.06 lbs. rice and .63 lb. wheat.

(b) Yes, Sir; but in the case of Nilgiris, quotas based on the number of employees are given to the estate owners for distribution to labourers through the employers shops. In the absence of such shops, the labourers take rations from the nearest retail shop.

(c) Arecanut growers, who applied have been allowed the concession referred to in (b). Information regarding cardamom estate owners is being collected.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The aim is to provide a basic ration of one lb. in staple foodgrains and an extra 50 per cent. for heavy manual workers but the actual ration in each area depends on local conditions and supplies. Extra rations to labourers are allowed when supplies are available, and employers of estates who are producers of foodgrains are allowed to retain their produce for distribution to their labourers through their gram shops.

INTERPRETATION OF "GRAM" IN THE SCHEDULE OF FOODGRAINS (FUTURE AND OPTION'S PROHIBITION) ORDER

1348. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the commodity described as "gram" in the schedule annexed to the Foodgrains (future and option's prohibition) Order, 1942, has given rise to doubts and whether it has cleared any departmental circulars; and

(b) whether the word 'gram' was intended to apply to horse "gram" and whether the order has been applied to horse gram?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). I have received no such complaint in connection with the working of the Foodgrains (Futures and Options Prohibition) Order 1942. Gram is generally understood by the trade to mean Bengal gram of which the botanical name is *cicer arietinum*. Horse gram, commonly known as *Kulti* is a species of pulses and is quite distinct from ordinary gram.

In connection with their Foodgrains Procurement Scheme, the Food Department issued a circular letter in June, 1943, explaining that by 'gram' was meant 'Bengal gram' and not 'green gram', 'black gram' or 'horse gram', which are really varieties of pulses.

LICENSED SALT DEALERS, ETC., IN BIHAR

1349. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please refer to his replies to my starred question No. 952 of the 13th March, 1945, and starred question No. 710 of the 30th March, 1944, and state whether he has received replies of the starred question No. 710 asked on the 30th March, 1944? If so, what it is? If not, whether he has issued any reminder to get replies?

(b) With reference to replies to part (b) of starred question No. 953 of the 13th March, 1945, in which the Honourable Member stated that one more wholesale sugar dealer was going to be added in the Hajipur sub-division of the Muzaffarpur district in Bihar, does the Honourable the Food Member propose to ask the Bihar Government to consider the claims of the said Barkat Mian of the same sub-division as he happened to be on the approved list of wholesale dealers of sugar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes. According to the information received from the Bihar Government there were 1,489 Muslim licensed salt dealers in Bihar on the 30th March, 1944, and 2,047 on the 10th March 1945, out of a total of 19,522. The information is, however, still not complete.

As regards part (b) of starred question No. 952 the information is that there has been an increase in the number of Muslim salt dealers since 1944 in the Tirhut Division.

(b) The matter is entirely within the discretion of the Provincial Government, but I am prepared to send them copies of the questions and answers for their consideration.

AUTHORITY CONTROLLING MOVEMENTS OF FOODGRAINS AND GUR IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF BIHAR

1352. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the local authority which controls the movements of foodgrain and *gur* in the districts of Hazaribagh, Gaya and Ranchi;

(b) the authority which has prohibited the movement of *gur* from Chatra in Hazaribagh district to Loherdago in Ranchi district; and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that unnecessary interferences with the free inter-district movements of foodgrains and *gur* has been causing great difficulties and inconveniences both to the producers and consumers of foodgrains and *gur* in the districts mentioned in (a) and (b); and if he proposes to advise the local authority concerned not to do so?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Regional Officer, Ranchi in Hazari Bagh and Ranchi Districts, and the Regional Officer, Gaya in Gaya District.

(b) The Local Government, on the advice of the Government of India, in order to prevent excessive movement of *gur* to the districts on the borders of the province, whence smuggling out of the province is easy.

(c) I have heard of no special inconvenience.

Tuesday, 29th March, 1945

REPORT ON WORKING OF FOOD ADMINISTRATION IN AJMER-MERWARA

1463. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Food be pleased to state:

(a) if he has received the results of the enquiry held into the affairs of the working of his department in Ajmer-Merwara by the Food Commissioner and Food Regional Commissioner and the steps, if any, he has taken as a result of the report; and

(b) if the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara has issued the notification saying that the public shall have to accept wheat and barley in the future with an admixture of 30 per cent. of dust, etc.; and if the department's consent in the matter has been secured?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No formal enquiry was held, but the Chief Commissioner, assisted by officers of my Department has effected much improvement in the food administration of Ajmer-Merwara.

(b) No, Sir.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Is it a fact that the Food Department is compelling purely rice eaters to take wheat to the extent of one-sixth of their ration?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I submit that does not arise out of the question on the paper.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is this being done in Ajmer-Merwara?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the reply to part (b), will he please inquire into this matter, because I have information that such a notification has been issued?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am afraid the information which my Honourable friend has got is not correct. I have inquired into the matter.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Let him give rice or wheat but without mud.

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

1465. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual total production of sugar in the country;
- (b) whether production has increased since 1939;
- (c) the annual total exports of this country and to what places it was exported;
- (d) how the present shortage is explained;
- (e) the basis of distribution of sugar to various provinces; and
- (f) whether the production in Native States is also taken into consideration?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The total annual production of sugar in India has varied between 10 and 12 lakh tons in recent years.

(b) Production was highest in 1939-40, and 1943-44, at about 12½ lakh tons, but was not so high in the intervening three years.

(c) The annual total exports are about 17,000 tons of sugar to neighbouring countries.

(d) The present shortage is due to increase in population, increased requirements of the Defence Services, the relatively high increase in urban population which is the main consumer of sugar, and higher purchasing capacity of the public. It is also due to the estimated fall in production in the current year.

(e) The available supply of sugar is distributed to various Provinces and States on the basis of their pre-war average consumption during the years 1935-36 to 1938-39. Adjustments are, however, made in special circumstances.

(f) Yes.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: With reference to (c), is it not a fact that the Provinces are not getting even their 1935 average quota even today?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware. I am giving them according to the average consumption during that year.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: They are not getting that quota even today?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: What province does the Honourable Member refer to? If it is Madras, I will inquire into the matter. I am not aware that Madras is not getting its quota.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is the shortage of sugar due to shortage of cane plantation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not think it arises out of this question.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: It does arise. How is the present shortage explained?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There are a number of causes for the present shortage. One of them is smaller cultivation of cane.

NON-INCREASE IN SIZE OF RATION IN MALABAR

1466. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he is aware that the Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Madras in charge of Food made a statement in the Madras Provincial Food

Council that the size of ration in Malabar could not be increased to 1 lb. per adult per day, because Railways were not placing enough wagons to carry the grams to West Coast; it so, whether it was true; and

(b) if the wagons are available now to carry foodgrains to West Coast; if not, do Government propose to arrange for alternative transport for the said purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). I understand that the Adviser said that the main difficulty was transportation. Arrangements to overcome this have been made.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Now that the wagons are available, from when will the increased ration of one pound per day be given?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As soon as the stuff is there to make the ration one pound a day possible.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Has any inquiry been made to find out whether one pound of rice is sufficient for a man who can eat more than that?

HIGHER SIZE OF RATION IN DELHI

1467. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have accepted the principle involved in resolution No. 1(b) of the 5th All India Food Conference, namely, that until all deficit areas can be ensured sufficient supplies to enable them to sustain a basic ration of 1 lb. of cereals per adult per day, the size of the basic ration in any area should not exceed that quantity, if so, why the size of ration in Delhi is still kept at 18 ozs. while in Malabar it is 12 ozs.;

(b) whether any time limit was given to Provincial Governments and States to conform to the principles laid down in that Conference;

(c) the size of the supplementary ration agreed to be given to manual workers, and if the cultivators of foodgrains come under that class; if not, why not;

(d) whether he is aware that in the Madras Presidency a child up to 2 years is not entitled to any ration;

(e) the sanction behind the resolutions of the All India Food Conference; and

(f) whether Government propose to keep a constant watch over all Governments and direct them to follow the resolutions to which they are parties?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The principle of the Resolution has been accepted. It lays down the size of the basic ration in urban areas assuming that in addition a supplementary ration is provided for heavy manual workers. Where no such supplementary ration is provided, as in the case of Delhi, the Government of India are prepared to allow a higher basic ration up to a limit of 8 lbs. per week.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No scale has been laid down, but in urban rationing administrations are advised, subject to supplies being available, to aim at the provision of a supplementary ration for heavy manual workers upto 50 per cent. of the Basic ration. Cultivators of foodgrains are not excluded from the category of heavy manual workers.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) They have the force of recommendations to the Government of India, embodying a large measure of agreement and common purpose between Provincial and State Governments, on the subjects with which they deal.

(f) The Government of India will make every endeavour to that end

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that in several towns in the Madras Presidency cultivators living in urban areas are not treated as coming within the category of heavy manual labourers, will the Government of India issue definite instructions to see that these people are included within that category?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We have already done so, as I have stated in my answer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member only said that they are not excluded from this category. It does not mean that they are to be included. In either case, the agricultural worker who does heavy manual labour takes much more food than one pound, as was mentioned by my Honourable friend Mr. Rangiah Naidu.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The negative includes the positive.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the objection to give a definite instruction on the lines I have suggested, unless the Honourable Member has got any mortal reservation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will with pleasure draw the attention of the Madras Government to this matter.

RICE ROTTING IN GOVERNMENT GODOWNS IN MANIKGANJ

1479. *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorthy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Food please state if the attention of Government has been drawn to the news published on page 5 of the *Hindustan Times*, dated 17th instant that 1,00,000 maunds of rice was rotting in Government godowns in Manikganj (Dacca-Bengal)?

(b) Have they verified if this is a fact?

(c) Do Government propose to make enquiries and find out the person or persons responsible for such a large wastage?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of such happenings?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). An enquiry has been made from the Bengal Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: May I know from the Honourable Member whether he is going to visit the storage place and find out if the foodstuffs are properly secured?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member said he would collect information and lay it on the table.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Sir, I should like to know whether the Honourable Member is going to visit the places of storage of foodstuffs . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. That does not arise at all.

FOODSTUFF DESTROYED IN BENGAL

1480. *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorthy: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the total quantity and value of foodstuff that had to be destroyed in Bengal in 1944 for want of proper care in storage?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Bengal Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that very often foodstuffs are stored in the open and exposed to rain and wind?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir, that is not a fact.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is it a fact that large quantities of rice deteriorated at Munshigunj and a considerable quantity of *atta* also deteriorated at Dacca recently?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to answer that question without notice.

FOOD SCARCITY IN ORISSA

1481. *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Food Member been drawn to a news item published on page 4 of the *Hindustan Times Evening News*, dated the 16th March, 1945, regarding a statement by Mr. Biswanath Das, Ex-premier of Orissa, saying that the conditions in Orissa are deplorable and people are living on "banshini" a preparation made of bamboo trees?

(b) Do Government propose to verify the facts and see that sufficient quantity of rice and other essential foodstuffs are immediately supplied to Orissa?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

PRODUCTION OF POTATOES IN FARRUKHABAD

1483. *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the production of potatoes in Farrukhabad this season;

(b) the number of tons for which export permits are given;

(c) the number of tons remaining in that local market;

(d) if he is aware that the number of tons left behind exceeds the requirements of the local civilian consumption;

(e) if he proposes to take steps to see that necessary permits are issued for their export;

(f) the number of tons purchased by the military for dehydration purposes; and

(g) whether Government propose to make transport arrangements to send the surplus stock to deficit areas?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) to (g). The production is estimated at 19 lakh maunds of which export is permitted upto 12½ lakh maunds. In addition there is a military demand of 1.85 lakh maunds. On completion of these quotas the residue left would be 5.15 lakh maunds which is not considered to be in excess of local requirements for consumption and seed within the Province. I regret that I have no precise figures of the amount actually exported to date but the ban is being temporarily lifted to facilitate the clearance of the exportable surplus. Necessary assistance for movement is being given by the Provincial Government.

CONDITION FOR GRANT OF WHOLESALE DEALER'S LICENCE FOR SUGAR IN BIHAR

1581. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Food be pleased to refer to his reply to part (d) of starred question No. 953 on the 13th March, 1945 and state: (a) whether establishment in trade is a condition for the grant of wholesale dealer's licence for sugar in Bihar;

(b) whether the said three Marwaris had ever worked as wholesale sugar dealers in Muzaffarpur district; if so, for what amount, from what sugar factory and for what length of time;

(c) the amount the said three Marwaris paid over the purchase of National Savings Certificates and the date when such certificates were purchased and

(d) the date of the grant and issue of the sugar wholesale dealer's licence?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). Yes. All the three Marwari firms have worked as wholesale sugar dealers in Muzaffarpur District. A statement about other particulars is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Name of the Firm	Extent of sugar business	Name of sugar factories from where supplies obtain	Period in trade	Date and amount invested in National savings Certificates	Date of grant and issue of the sugar wholesale dealer's licence	Remarks
M/S. Meghraj Ramchandra.	Head a turnover varying from 14,000 to 18,000 bpgs a year between 1940-41 to 1942-43; annual investment exceeds Rs. 5 lakhs.	Majhauia, Bagaha Ramnagar, Sagauli and Motipur.	Nearly 50 years.	Rs. 20,000 in January, 44; Rs. 5,000 in March, 44; and Rs. 2,500 in January, 45.	12th March, 1943.	
M/S. Ramniwas Ramballav.	Annual investment between Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 3 lakhs.	Bagaha Motihari, Japaha, Sitalpur, Motipur, Pachrukli, Marhowrah and Riga.	About 50 years.	Rs. 5,000 between January and February, 1945.	February, 1943.	
M/S. Ramjiwan Dalal.	Turnover of 15,000 to 20,000 bags a year.	Riga and Narkatiaganj.	10 years	Rs. 250 in 1944 and Rs. 350 during 1945.	March, 1943	

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether these merchants were dealers in sugar or in cloth?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: In sugar. They have been dealing in sugar for fifty years.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Has the Honourable Member verified this fact?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: This is the information supplied to me by the Bihar Government?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: As this is not correct information, will the Honourable Member make further inquiries and find out whether they were dealers in sugar for so many years?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not consider it necessary at all, in view of the definite information given to me by the Bihar Government.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: In reply to part (c) of the question, may I know how much money these merchants have invested in the National Savings Certificate?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The question is redundant in a way, because investment in national savings certificates is not considered for the grant of sugar licences, although the person investing in them will be regarded as a prudent man.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that there are Regional Food Commissioners in the place, will the Honourable Member be good enough to inquire from him whether the facts stated in the question are correct or the facts sent to him by the Bihar Government are correct?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has his own Regional Food Commissioner, will it not be possible for him to ascertain the true state of things from his own agent?

Dr. Sir Zia-Uddin Ahmad: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member first answer the supplementary question.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If my Honourable friend wants it, I will make further enquiries, but I do not think there is really any need for it in view of the definite information supplied to me.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Since there is a doubt as to the accuracy of the information sent by the Bihar Government, since the Honourable Member has got his own agency . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is only reasonable that the Honourable Member should use his own agency and ascertain the true facts.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a matter for argument.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I rise to a point of order, Sir. An Honourable Member of this House has challenged the facts given by the Honourable Member for Food and requested him to ascertain the true facts again, but the Honourable Member refused to do so. The Honourable Member Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani really gives facts from his own personal knowledge, whereas the Honourable the Member for Food is giving out what has been supplied to him by the Bihar Government?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is no point of order.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: The Honourable Member said on a previous occasion also that he has got definite information, but when I asserted similarly that the information was otherwise, then the Honourable Member said that he had satisfied himself. May I know what are the sources through which the Government of India satisfy themselves as against the Bihar Government when they make a deliberate misstatement?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Government have their own sources of information which the Honourable Member ought to know.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are these sources? Are not the Regional Commissioners one of these sources?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The point of order raised by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad has not yet been decided, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the point of order?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The point of order is this. One Honourable Member challenged the facts given out by the Honourable the Food Member and requested the Food Member to make further enquiries into the matter which he refused.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is no point of order. The whole position has been clarified so far as the Government Member apparently could do it.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: No reply has been given to part (c).

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has given his reply. Next question.

HYGIENE INSPECTION OF COFFEE FACTORIES

1582. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh**: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state: (a) whether the factories, at which coffee is prepared, have been examined from the point of view of hygiene; and if so, when they were last examined; and

(b) the precautions taken to prevent adulteration of coffee at the factories and at the time of sale to consumers?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Presumably the Honourable Member refers to the supply of Ground Coffee.

(a) The six factories of contractors for the supply of coffee for the Army, to which the Honourable Member presumably refers, have all been inspected from the point of view of Hygiene within the last three months except one which was last inspected in June 1944.

(b) Precautions against adulteration are periodical inspections of the factories during production, monthly statements accounting for the Coffee berries received and the powder produced; and analysis of samples at the Military Food Laboratories. No question of precaution at time of sale arises, as Food Department purchases Coffee only as a ration for the troops.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know the agency through which this inspection is carried on?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already answered that.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The particular character of the Agency?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is being carried on by the Food Inspection Directorate.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know the name of the factory which has been mentioned whose inspection was not carried out from the point of view of hygiene?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That was a factory belonging to Messrs. Husain Bhoy and Sons Ltd.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the precaution against adulteration taken by the Central Government or by the Provincial Government? If so, what is the specific machinery in order to check that the public do not get adulterated stuff?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already explained that at length.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it by the Central Government or by the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: By the Central Government.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Are yearly reports received by the Food Department?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Do Government take action?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Food Department is very much alive.

HYGIENE INSPECTION OF CONDIMENT POWDERS FACTORIES

1583. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state: (a) whether the factories, at which condiment powders are prepared, have been examined from the point of view of hygiene; if so, what the reports about these factories were; and

(b) the precautions taken to prevent adulteration of condiment powders?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes. The reports were generally satisfactory.

(b) The Precautions to prevent adulteration include analysis of samples at the Military Food Laboratories and occasional inspections by officers of the Food Department and of the Inspectorate of Hygiene.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The Honourable Member said that the reports were generally satisfactory. What is the meaning of that?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Wherever there was any defect found it was brought to the notice of the proprietors and set right.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if such complaints were made and whether inspectors have gone into them, to the knowledge of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Oh! yes, they are being made as occasion arises.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do the Government inspect factories which are producing only for armed forces or do they inspect factories which produce for the general public also?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is only for the army condiment powder.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if there is any provision for inspection of factories which supply for the civilian needs?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is no purchase made by Government for the general public. We are on condiments now.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What are the contents of the report?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have not got copies of reports. Inspections are made from time to time. If there are any defects they are brought to the notice of the Department by the Inspectors and those defects are set right.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In view of the fact that reports are submitted to the Central Government, is the Honourable Member in a position to say what the reports are and from which factories?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have not got a detailed list of factories.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The names of such of the factories whose reports he has?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: None.

GHEE PURCHASING FIRMS OF GOVERNMENT

1584. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the number and names of firms with the names of partners, if any, appointed by Government to purchase ghee last year;

(b) whether any of these have been given notice that their services will not be required; and

(c) the precautions taken to prevent adulteration of ghee?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Only one Agent was newly appointed last year, viz., British India Trading Co., Bombay in which Mr. D. Khandka, Mr. Devji Rattansi and Mr. Gordhan Dass Jaydavji are partners.

(b) No.

(c) Food Department only buys ghee for the Army which before acceptance is tested to a specification designed to ensure the supply of pure ghee.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: What are the special qualifications of this firm?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am afraid, I do not know what my Honourable friend means by 'special qualifications'. They are a good firm.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Were any tenders invited? Was any comparison made between the tenders? How were they found to be efficient?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall require notice as to whether tenders were invited or not. That does not arise out of the question on the order paper.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I know tenders are not invited but applications are submitted to this Department which purchases food for the army. What are the grounds on which applications are granted or rejected?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We must get hold of a reliable firm which will do the job.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is meant by "a reliable firm"?

(No reply was given.)

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Is it a fact that a large amount of National Savings Certificates was purchased by this firm and therefore they got the license?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir, 'therefore' does not arise.

GHEE HEATING CENTRES

1585. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the number of Ghee Heating Centres in India, and the places where they are situated, and whether Government propose to continue all of them; if not, which of the Centres are to be discontinued and why?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There are six Ghee Heating Centres in India located at Agra, Muzaffarpore, Kamptee, Ambala, Karachi and Bangalore.

At present Government proposes to discontinue only the Ghee Centre at Kamptee, from 1st June 1945, or soon thereafter, in view of the changed circumstances of demand and availability.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the meaning of "changed circumstances"?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Change in demand and availability.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Did not the demand originally exist and supplies made? On what grounds has this centre been discontinued?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The military demand is now less and there is less ghee to be obtained in that area.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Then will the Honourable Member take steps to decrease the ration that is given to the army in the matter of vegetable ghee? Is the Honourable Member aware that the army is given vegetable ghee simply because animal ghee is not available?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That question ought to be addressed to the War Department. I do not fix the ration for the army. I only carry out the demands of the Quarter-Master General.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: But is the Honourable Member really certain that the demand for ghee from the army is less?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, it is less.

EXCESSIVE REQUISITION OF FOODGRAINS FROM CULTIVATORS IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS

1595. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that in the following districts, excessive requisition of foodgrains from cultivators was made and that their objections are not heard and that there is agitation in the press against the method employed and the policy followed:

(i) Madras:—South Kanara District, and

(ii) Bombay:—Dharwar, Belgaum, Bijapur and North Kanara; and

(b) in view of the assurance given by the Honourable Member in his reply to Starred Question No. 618, dated the 20th November, 1944 that the cultivators' requirements would be safeguarded, whether Central Government have issued any circulars in this regard so far; if not, whether they propose to do so now?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I have made enquiries and am assured that excessive requisitioning of foodgrains from cultivators was not resorted to in the districts mentioned. Objections are carefully considered and where necessary rebates are allowed. In Bombay articles in the Press regarding the levy system generally are regularly discussed in District Press Conferences and misunderstandings removed as far as possible. A report has been called for from Madras on this point.

(b) I am satisfied that the need for safeguarding the requirements of cultivators which my Department has already impressed on Provincial Governments and which was discussed at the last Food Conference, is fully understood, and no special directive on the point is required.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (a) of the question, may I know what he means by "excessive requisitioning of foodgrains from cultivators"? May I know how much grain was left with the cultivators?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I mean exactly what I have said—no more and no less.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: There is no question of 'no more and no less'. I want to know how much grain was actually left with the cultivators for themselves and their families? —

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That was not the question on the order paper.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The question was 'whether he is aware that excessive requisition of foodgrains from cultivators was being made' . . .

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am satisfied that excessive grain was not requisitioned from the cultivators.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What are the rules for the requisitioning of foodgrains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We have made no rules; these rules are made by the Provincial Governments. The whole system is explained in the Butler Report which is in the Library of the House.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that large complaints have been received in this matter, will the Government issue a fresh circular saying that proper allowances which are promised in the orders made by the Government itself are kept up and that proper allowances are given? The order is all right but the execution is defective. We do not know what machinery he has, but may I know if he will issue a strict circular that the orders which are being issued are strictly adhered to?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, certainly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member enquire from his Regional Food Commissioner whether his orders are being strictly enforced and whether the cultivators' requirements are left with the cultivators?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As I have already stated in my reply, so far as Bombay goes I am satisfied with the reports which I have received that all legitimate complaints are looked into and put right.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What about Madras?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am awaiting a reply from Madras. I have written to Madras and as soon as I get information from there, I will lay it before the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does it cover both the Government of Madras and the Regional Food Commissioner?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to actual reports of excessive procurements of foodgrains from various other districts also, apart from South Canara—for instance, South Arcot?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir. I have not seen any such reports.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF CHILLIES

1598. ***Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Chillies in the country in 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44; and the quantities exported out of India and to which countries;

(b) what system was adopted to grant export licences and on what basis the firms were selected for such licences;

(c) the number and names of firms which are authorised to export chillies out of India; and

(d) if in selecting firms Government prefer firms quoting lower prices to those charging higher prices; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement giving such information as is available is laid on the table.

(b) and (d). Price quoted is not the determining factor in the issue of licenses. Licenses are, as a rule, granted by the Export Trade Controllers to established exporters on the basis of their shipments in the basic year 1941-42. The object of confining licences to such exporters is so that, when trade is restricted, it should be reserved as far as possible to those whose normal business has been affected.

(c) There are 194 established exporters. It is not in the public interest to disclose their names.

Statement

(a) Production of Chillies during the period 1941-42 to 1943-44.

Province	Production (Tons)		
	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
Bengal	Figure not available	3,330	Figure not available
Bombay	7,010	7,381	8,020
Madras	156,595	170,470	Figure not available

Data for other parts of the country are not available.

(b) Export of Chillies from British India during the period 1941-42 to 1943-44.

To countries of destination	(In cwts.)		
	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
Ceylon (excluding Maldives)	128,279	189,201	107,225
United Kingdom (including Channel Islands)	1,837	...	...
Aden and Dependencies	2,192	...	...
Burma	531	...	...
Straits Settlements	10,194	...	...
Federated Malay State	1,646	...	...
Union of South Africa	120	12,091 (to countries other than Ceylon)	6,700 (to countries other than Ceylon)
Mauritius Dependencies	1,858	...	...
Commonwealth of Australia	657	...	...
Iraq	347	...	...
United States of America	617	...	...
Other countries	753	...	...
	149,181	201,292	113,925

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (d) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I answered parts (b) and (d) together.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: May I know if it is a fact that a great quantity of chillies got deteriorated for want of transport facilities?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have had no definite complaint to that effect, but the shipping facilities are limited as the Honourable Member must understand.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Is it not a fact that if the number of exporters is increased, it would be to the advantage of growers of chillies?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I don't accept that, but I can give the Honourable Member certain figures. In the year 1941-42, we exported 150,000 cwts. of chillies. During the year 1942-43, we exported 201,000 cwts. of chillies, so that the quantity increased in that year.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that there was an insistent demand from the Government of Ceylon for chillies?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We have met that demand.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: What is the difficulty in increasing the number of exporters?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have explained that in my answer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know the number of European exporters?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

FEMALE SUBORDINATE IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

1600. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the total number of female subordinates Division, I and II in the Department of Food and how many of them are Bengalis; and

(b) whether it is a fact that no seniority list of these female subordinates is maintained; if so, on what basis their promotions to higher posts are made; and if any seniority list is maintained, whether it is combined or separate from that of male subordinates?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Thirteen in all: two Assistants, ten Clerks and one Confidential Secretary.

Out of the total of thirteen, three are Bengalis.

(b) A combined gradation list is maintained for both men and women.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: What is the duty of the Confidential Secretary?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: She is a Confidential Secretary.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is she attached to the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, not to the Honourable Member.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether it is a fact that female subordinates are divided into two categories: (i) those under teens; and (ii) those above teens; and, if so, those under teens are retained in the Administration Branch under the direct control of Administration officers and those above teens are spread over different branches in the Department.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir. We do not do anything so monstrous as that.

CO-OPERATIVE STORES IN DELHI DISTRIBUTING FOOD RATIONS

1621. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that co-operative stores in Delhi have been recognised for distribution of food ration; if so, the number of such stores, and if these stores are contemplated for distribution of kerosene oil and fuel also; if not, why not; and

(b) whether Government propose to recognise more co-operative stores for distribution of food ration instead of opening government shops?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes Sir. The number of such co-operative stores is 26. The question of using them for distribution of fuel and kerosene is under consideration.

(b) It is not proposed to replace the existing Government shops by Co-operative Stores, but the latter will be used as far as possible if and when need arises.

Monday, 9th April, 1945

COCOA BEANS IMPORTED FROM CEYLON

1696. *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorthy: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the quantity of Cocoa beans imported from Ceylon in the months of January and February 1945;

(b) whether a controlling Board has been formed in England with the name of "Combined Food Board" which has taken under its control the distribution of the cocoa crop in the Empire countries including Ceylon;

(c) whether it is a fact that this combined Food Board allotted no quota for India;

(d) whether he is aware that industrial circles connected with cocoa and chocolate industry in India are perturbed over the existence and the future of the cocoa and chocolate industry in the country unless supplies of cocoa beans are forthcoming from Ceylon in the immediate future; and

(e) whether the Honourable Member proposes to take necessary steps to help this industry in getting a quota of cocoa beans if there is no quota allotted at present?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) The distribution of Cocoa beans produced in the Empire Countries including Ceylon is regulated by the London Food Council and the Combined Food Board, at Washington.

(c) and (d). Yes.

(e) Necessary steps are already being taken.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether any investigations have been made by the Government to see if in any part of India cocoa beans could be raised.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is not my Department; I cannot answer that question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What steps are being taken in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I can tell the Honourable Member that in 1945 a chocolate factory in Poona brought it to the notice of the Food Department that the export of cocoa from Ceylon had been restricted and the allocations of this commodity are now made by the London Food Council. That was the first time we knew of it. This firm asked for the import of 250 tons of beans and the Chief Controller of Imports has been requested by us to get the food import programme for 1945 amended so as to include this item.

We have also asked the Regional Food Commissioners to ascertain the requirements of the country as a whole. On receipt of their replies we will move for further allocations of beans from Ceylon if necessary.

MUSLIM SALT DEALERS IN BIHAR

1712. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member please verify the reply given by him to starred question No. 1349 of the 26th March 1945, in so far as it relates to the Muslim salt dealers in Bihar and lay on the table the verified figure?

(b) When will the information be completed?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Complete information has since been received from the Bihar Government and a statement containing the required particulars is laid on the table of the House.

[Statement showing the total number of licensed Salt Dealers and Muslim licensees in Bihar]

Particular	Period	
	March, 1944	March, 1945
1. Total number of licensed Salt Dealers	25,370	25,370
2. Total number of Muslim licensees	1,852	2,522
3. Total number of Muslim licensees in Tirhut Division—		
(a) in Muzaffarpur district	123	127
(b) in Darbhanga district	148	157
(c) in Saran district	118	152
(d) in Champaran district	144	216

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether the number given by the Honourable Member relates to retail license or wholesale license?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to say. I would like notice of the question. But I presume that it includes both.

GRAIN STORAGE DIRECTORATE

1713. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state: (a) whether the Grain Storage Directorate has been organised; if so, to what extent;

(b) the number and qualifications of the Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and Entomologists appointed to officiate during 1944 and 1945, and the amount of each officer's salary, and

(c) the total number of ministerial staff and the number of Muslims above the rank of peons and chaphasis?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) 3 gazetted posts out of 9 remain to be filled.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) 24, out of which 3 are Muslims and three posts are vacant at present.

Statement

S. No.	Designation	No.	Name of officer	Qualifications	Salary per month
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Director .	1	Dr. F. P. Coyne	B.Sc., Ph.D., formerly Technical Officer (Pest Control), United Kingdom Commercial Corporation, Ltd.	Rs. 2,300
2	Deputy Director	1	Mr. K. R. Son-takay.	M.Sc., (Zoology) with Entomology as special group ; Lecturer in Entomology at the Imperial College, Nagpur ; LL.B. ; Entomologist to the Government of C. P. and Berar from 1939 to 1945 ; has been actively connected with various scheme sponsored by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Indian Central Cotton Committee about control of pests of different species.	Rs. 650
3	Assistant Directors.	2	(a) Mr. I. J. Malhan.	B.A. ; had put in more than about 14 years service in various offices and Departments of the Government of India, including the Central Marketing Department and the Supply Department before he was appointed as Superintendent in the Food Department ; officiated as Assistant Secretary, Food Department ; was then selected for the post of Assistant Director.	Rs. 670
			(b) Mr. Mohan Singh.	M.Sc. (Hons.) ; worked as Demonstrator in Zoology and Entomology at the Government College, Lahore and Khalsa College, Amritsar ; attended a special course on "Fishes" and Applied and General Entomology ; In-charge of the Insectary of the Imperial Entomologist from 1938 to 1943 ; worked as Assistant to the Imperial Entomologist at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi ; published more than 20 short notes on the observations made on insect pests of various crops ; carried out special work on insect pests of stored grain and other foodstuffs ; organised locust control work in Mekran and Baroda and Bahawalpur States.	Rs. 400

S. No.	Designation	No.	Name of officer	Qualifications	Salary per month
1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Storage Construction Officer.	1	Rai Bahadur Narnain Das.	Retired Executive Engineer, C. P. W. D.	Rs. 550 in addition to pension.
5	Technical Officer, Storage Entomologists.	1	Mr. A. S. Jandu	Studied for two years for the I.Sc., Examination of the Patna University; was then appointed Fieldman in the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute since August, 1944, he was officiating in the Institute as Assistant on Rs. 100. in the scale of Rs. 100.5-150-10-250.	Rs. 200

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What is the number of Muslims in (a) and (b)?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Is it a fact that there is no Muslim?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, the statement is there.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I say that there is no Muslim. Will the Honourable Member please see that out of the remaining appointments due share of Muslims is made good?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The position is that we are advertising specifically for a Muslim candidate to fill one of the technical officer posts remaining to be filled.

PREVAILING RATES FOR FOODSTUFFS IN BIJAPUR DISTRICT

1721. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the District of Bijapur the following rates for foodstuffs prevail and that Government are making huge profits as shown in the table:—

Foodstuffs	Buying rate (per bag of 120 seers)	Selling rate	Profit per bag
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Rice	40 0 0	50 8 6	10 8 6
Wheat	30 0 0	36 3 6	6 3 6
Jowar	18 7 6	22 5 3	3 13 9

(b) whether at the present rate of ration consisting of 25 per-cent. rice, 25 per cent. wheat and 50 per cent. jowar an adult pays Rs. 10 per year to Government as the cost of rationing;

(c) whether it is a fact that jowar is purchased in Bijapur at Rs. 30 per bag and the same is transported to Poona and sold at Rs. 45 per bag;

(d) the difference in rates in pre-war years between Bijapur and Poona; and

(e) the reasons for maintaining the higher margin between purchasing and selling rates, and what steps the Central Government propose to take to see that Provincial Governments do not profiteer in foodgrains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The purchase rates mentioned by the Honourable Member are correct for Bijapur district, but the selling rates are the retail prices in the rationed town of Bijapur. Retail prices in rationed areas are the actual economic cost including the pooled price of Government's purchases of the particular grain, from whatever source, handling and administrative charges, and the retailer's margin. No profit is made by the Provincial Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The purchase rate of Jowar in Bijapur is Rs. 18-7-6 per bag of 120 seers, and the selling rate in Poona is Rs. 22-8-0.

(d) During the period 1927-1939, prices in Poona were about 12 per cent. higher than in Bijapur.

(e) As the present margin between the purchasing and the selling rates in rationed areas does not result in any profit to the Provincial Government, the Government of India do not propose to take any action in the matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the Government of India are satisfied with this state of things, as a result of which as much as 50 per cent. additional price is tacked on to the buying price of Jowar and 25 per cent. in the case of the rice consumer?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of any case like that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The information is given here: buying rate (per bag of 120 seers) Rs. 40, selling rate Rs. 50-8-6.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Rs. 18-7-6 is the purchase rate and the selling rate in Poona is 22-8-0.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The whole House is grateful to the Honourable Member for having given this information in tabular form. Are we to understand that Government are allowing as much as 25 per cent. additional cost to be charged to the buyer on account of marketing?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That was never the intention. I do not know what the Honourable Member is referring to.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member see page 8 of the question list where it is said that the profit per bag is Rs. 10-8-6.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That I have denied. I have not accepted the prices given by the Honourable questioner.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the actual facts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have given you the actual facts.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any serious effort been made by the Provincial Government or the Food Department to reduce the cost of marketing so that the commodities will reach the consumer cheaper?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Every effort is being made every day. The price that we are charging is the actual cost of the foodgrains plus the handling charges.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The handling charges are too much?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It may be in some cases. I do not know but the Provincial Governments are making no profits.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any others allowed to make profits?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Nobody is allowed to make profits.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: According to the reply given by the Honourable Member, we all understood that he admitted the accuracy of the figures given in part (a) of the question. We would like a definite reply that the figures given in part (a) of the question are right or wrong?"

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir. What I have stated is that the purchase rates mentioned by the Honourable Member are correct for Bijapur District but the selling rates or the retail prices in the rationed town of Bijapur are naturally higher and they are pooled prices. They might include rice bought at higher rates.

Sardar Sant Singh: What is the selling rate at Bijapur?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The selling rate is 50-8. I have not denied that.

Sardar Sant Singh: Rs. 10-8-0 is allowed as profit. Is it not too much?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: With this reservation, as I have explained. This is the pooled retail price. It may include rice bought at higher rates.

Sardar Sant Singh: Does the responsibility for this rest with the Food Department or the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Mainly the Provincial Government.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member give a clear answer, so that it can be accepted or contested. The Honourable questioner has said that rice was bought at Rs. 40 and sold at 50-8-6. The point is whether those figures are right or wrong. The Honourable Member said first that the buying price is correct but the selling price is not. Subsequently he said the selling price is correct. What is the exact position, because this is a matter dealt with by a Provincial Government.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am afraid my Honourable friend has not understood me correctly. What I said was that the buying rate has been correctly stated but the selling rate is the retail price which might include lot of rice bought at a higher rate before. I said: Retail prices in rationed areas are the actual economic cost including the pooled price of Government's purchases of the particular grain from whatever source. It is not a question of Bijapur rice only. They might have got rice from outside which might have cost them more and to that they have got to add the necessary charges but it is a pooled price. The Provincial Government make no profit on it. They may have got rice for example from the Punjab which might have cost them much more. The selling price is the pooled price.

- COST OF DEHYDRATED MEAT, ETC., AT CERTAIN GOVERNMENT FACTORIES

1724. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the cost separately, of dehydrated meat per 100 lbs. prepared at each of the Government Factories at Delhi, Agra, Patna, Poona and Madras, the cost separately, of dressed meat and the dehydration charges, and the reasons for the variation in cost prices at each of the above Factories; and

(b) if it is a fact that under the existing arrangements, the supply of dressed meat and dehydration operation is being carried out by one and the same party in each of the above Factories, excepting Delhi, where dehydration operations are being carried out by Government themselves?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement showing the analysed cost per 100 lbs. of dehydrated meat produced is placed on the table of the House. Local conditions which affect the price of raw meat and the rates of labour are responsible for the variations in cost. The Delhi Factory was intended to demonstrate certain improvements in production which added to the cost of the product.

(b) Yes.

Statement showing estimated cost per 100 lbs. of dehydrated Meat produced at Govt. Dehydrated Meat Factories before 31st March 1945

Item	Poona factory	Madras factory	Patna factory	Agra factory	Delhi factory
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cost of Dressed carcasses.	759 14 4	659 14 4	680 3 4	570 5 0	680 0 0
Processing charges	243 12 0	175 0 0	175 0 0	185 15 0	420 13 4
Profit	31 4 0	*39 7 4	31 4 0	31 4 0	Nil
Total	1,034-14 4	874 5 8	886 7 4	787 8 0	1,100 13 4

*Includes Sales Tax paid.

TENDER PROCEDURE FOR SUPPLY OF DRESSED CARCASS OF GOAT MEAT FOR CERTAIN GOVERNMENT FACTORIES

1725. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if Government have recently adopted the tender procedure for the supply of dressed carcass of goat meat for the Factories mentioned in the previous question except Delhi; if so, for what reasons; why such tenders have not been invited for the Delhi Factory; and

(b) for how long the contract for the supply of dressed meat will be allotted to each Factory, and whether the contracts will be placed with the lowest tenderers; if not, for what reasons?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The answer is in the affirmative. No tenders have been invited for the Delhi factory, as supplies for the current year are already under a contract,

(b) The second lowest tender in case of the Patna factory and the third lowest in case of the Agra factory have been accepted for supply of dressed carcasses for a period of three and six months respectively. The lowest tenders were not accepted in the interests of security of supply as the tenderers lacked adequate organisation and experience in procurement of goats. Tenders for the other two factories are under consideration.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

OPERATION OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT MEAT DEHYDRATING FACTORIES BY CONTRACTORS

1726. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if Government are aware that numerous experienced contractors are willing to undertake the operation of the Factories mentioned in previous questions at rates lower than the existing rates paid by Government; and

(b) whether Government propose to invite tenders for dehydration operations for all these Factories, if so, when, if not, for what reasons?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Government is unaware of any contractors, barring those already employed in meat factories, who are experienced in the process of meat dehydration.

(b) In view of (a) above the question of calling for tenders for operating contracts does not arise.

HIGH COST OF DEHYDRATED MEAT AT GOVERNMENT FACTORY, DELHI

1727. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that on account of the Government Meat Dehydration Factory, Delhi, being operated by Government themselves the cost of dehydrated meat is much higher than that of other such Factories which are operated by contractors; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of inviting tenders for the operation of this Factory or for the supply of dehydrated meat including the cost of meat as well as dehydration charges, etc., for the Delhi Factory as is already being done by Government in case of dehydrated potatoes, dehydrated onions and other dehydrated vegetables; if so, from what date; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes; since the factory was intended to demonstrate certain improvements in production, which however added to the cost of the product.

(b) Yes, the future operation of the factory is under consideration.

Thursday, 12th April, 1945

CANDIDATE FROM HINDU BACKWARD CLASSES APPOINTED AS CIRCLE RATIONING OFFICERS

1806. ***Mr. M. Ghiasuddin:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if any Circle Rationing Officer at Delhi, Lucknow and Lahore has been appointed from amongst the Hindu backward classes, such as Ahirs, Gadariyas, Lohars, Barhais, Bhurjees and Kahars, who number sixteen to seventeen crores in India? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Delhi, Lucknow and Lahore: No, Sir. No suitable candidate was available.

GOVERNMENT PROMISE TO SUPPLY MILL-MADE SUGAR TO MEMBERS OF SWEET AND MILK UNION, DELHI, ON CERTAIN CONDITION

1809. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if the following facts are correct:

(i) that Government promised to supply mill-made sugar to the Members of the Union and also increased the quota by 25 per cent. on the condition that the Sweet and Milk Union, Delhi, will contribute a sum of Rs. 1,25,000 towards the National Savings Certificates;

(ii) that after securing promise for the amount in (i) the previous quota was increased and mill-made sugar was supplied in the place of the hand made brown sugar which was being supplied previous to this promise in (i); and

(iii) that the balance between the amount promised and the amount collected is being recovered as per order referred to in starred question No. 542, dated the 28th February, 1945?

(b) Is it not a fact that judicial officers of the Delhi Province have been pressing for the contribution mentioned in part (a)?

(c) What is the position now?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a), (i), (ii) and (iii). No, Sir.

(b) During the National Savings Fortnight all officers of the Delhi Administration assisted in the work of collecting contributions.

(c) Officers who wish to continue making such collections can do so in their private capacity.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is it not a fact that a sum of Rs. 1,25,000 was stipulated to be collected from these people?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have answered, no.

CERTAIN ORDER OF THE RATIONING CONTROLLER, DELHI

1810. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please refer to starred question No. 542 of the 28th February, 1945, on order passed by Rationing Controller, Delhi, regarding deposit of security by 'establishments', and lay on the table:

(i) a copy of the agreement referred to in the question:

(ii) the total number of 'establishments', which paid the security deposit, and the total amount so deposited; and

*Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota

(iii) the total number of defaulting 'establishments' and the total amount purported to be due from them in pursuance of the agreement and the order referred to above?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (i) A copy of the agreement is placed on the table of the House.

(ii) The total number of shops which have paid the security deposit is 2,500 and the total deposit amounts to Rs. 2,14,536.

(iii) The approximate number of establishments which have not yet paid the security is 1,900 and the total amount due from them is approximately 1,50,000.

DELHI RATIONING

(See Paragraph 6-A)

AUTHORISED ESTABLISHMENT PROPRIETOR'S AGREEMENT.

No.....

Dated.....1945

I

(address) -

hereby state that, having been appointed as an authorised establishment proprietor for the supply of rationed articles namely wheat, wheat products, rice and sugar under the provisions of the Delhi Rationing Order 1944, I shall comply with all the provisions prescribed from time to time under the said Order and any directions issued thereunder.

In particular,

1. I undertake to use rationed articles for purposes of establishment consumption in accordance with the provisions prescribed by or under the Delhi Rationing Order 1944.

2. I also agree to deposit with the Controller of Rationing, Delhi Rs. _____ against the fulfilment of this undertaking and I agree to the forfeiture by the Controller of Rationing, Delhi, of this deposit for any breach by me or by any person acting on my behalf or in my employ, of the provisions prescribed from time to time by or under the Delhi Rationing Order, 1944 or any directions thereunder.

3. I further agree to maintain all the registers books of accounts, or other forms and to make and furnish statements and returns as may from time to time be required by the Controller of Rationing.

4. I further agree that the Controller of Rationing, Delhi, or such officer serving under him, as he may authorise generally or specifically, shall be the sole judge of the occasion, manner, measure, justice or equity of forfeiture of the security deposit. I forego all rights to claim a refund of the whole or any portion of the deposit save at the entire pleasure of the Controller of Rationing, Delhi.

Before me,

Circle Rationing Officer.....

Signature.....

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: May I know whether one of the terms of the agreement is that the person depositing money has to agree that he will forego all rights to claim a refund of the whole or any portion of the deposit save at the entire pleasure of the Controller of Rationing, Delhi?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is it legal?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I believe it is so.

BAN ON RETAIL SALE OF ICE BY DELHI Pan, Soda and Sharbat ESTABLISHMENTS

1811. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if the following are facts:

(i) that Pan, Soda and Sharbat establishments in Delhi have been deprived of the right to sell ice in retail; and

(ii) that separate permits or licenses have been issued for the exclusive sale of ice on condition that a separate shop is opened for the purpose?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please state the particular policy and purpose for which the deprivation in (i) is being effected?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i). Yes, but *Pan*, Soda and *Sharbat* establishments have been given permits to enable them to obtain ice, required for consumption in their establishments.

(ii) No such condition has been imposed.

(b) The object of the Delhi Ice Control Order is to enforce a reasonable retail price for ice and prevent wastage of supplies.

DEPOSITS FROM DELHI BAKERIES

†1812. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if he is aware of the facts:

(i) that *Pan*, Soda and *Sharbat* establishments in Delhi have been deprived on its work;

(ii) that every man who supplies loaves from these bakeries to restaurants is required to deposit Rs. 250, and

(iii) that every restaurant or *haldwai* who would keep these loaves for sale is required to deposit Rs. 250 apart from the usual deposit required under the order referred to in question No. 542 of the 28th February, 1945?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please take into consideration the difficulties of poor bakers, carriers and restaurant keepers, and propose exemption in deserving cases?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i) Yes, Sir.

(ii) No, Sir.

(iii) No, Sir. If the bread is for consumption on the premises of the restaurant or *haldwai*, no security is taken; if, however, the establishment wants to sell bread as a retailer for consumption off the premises, it has to obtain the necessary authorisation on making a security deposit of Rs. 250.

(b) It is necessary to control the distribution of rationed goods by taking a deposit from all distributors. It is not practicable to have different rules for different people.

II—UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Friday, 9th February, 1945

FOOD PARCELS EXPORTED TO ENGLAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES

3. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the maximum weight of food parcels allowed by the Government to be exported to England and other countries as gift parcels? What is the average number of such parcels exported by post per week?

(b) What are the reasons for allowing export of food from India? Does the Honourable Member propose to take necessary steps to prohibit such export and to prevent deaths by starvations in his own country?

(c) Is it a fact that more than lbs. 1,000 food is being sent from New Delhi per day per parcel post to England?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) 5 lb. including packing. Statistics showing the total number per week are not maintained.

(b) The matter has been carefully considered and I came to the conclusion that the additional supplies of essential foods which would be made available by prohibiting the sending of parcels did not make such an order advisable.

(c) No, Sir.

Monday, 5th March, 1945

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER FOOD DEPARTMENT

51. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p.m. and, above, in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House, when received.

Tuesday, 13th March, 1945.

INVESTMENT FOR SETTING UP A FRUIT CANNING PLANT

88. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly state:

(a) whether Government have decided henceforth not to place any order in India for the requirements of the defence forces in the matter of canned fruit;

(b) if Government helped financially for putting up a canning plant in India out of public funds; if so, the amount so invested; and

(c) if the investment was made, how it is working and what the financial prospects are?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) A factory was erected in 1944 at a cost of Rs. 9,34,617 which was borne by Government.

(c) The factory was not completed in time for the 1944 fruit season and only operated for a few days at the end of the season as a trial run. The factory is equipped with the most up-to-date machinery and should operate satisfactorily.

Wednesday, 4th April, 1945.

PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS TRANSFERRED TO RATIONING AND CIVIL SUPPLIES OFFICES IN DELHI PROVINCE

132. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the number of officials, Provincewise, who have been transferred from places outside Delhi to the Rationing and Civil Supplies offices in the Delhi Province;

(b) the duties assigned to each of them;

(c) whether any of them have been entrusted with outdoor duties; if so, how many; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider their claims for the posts of Circle Rationing Officers, Godown Officers, etc., in view of their past experience; if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) From C. P. 1. From the Punjab 11.

(b) C. P. 1 Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi.

PUNJAB

One Administrative Officer (Civil Supplies and Rationing).

One Public Relations Officer.

One Assistant Director of Civil Supplies (General).

Two Circle Rationing Officers.

Four Inspectors.

One Sub-Inspector.

One Clerk.

(c) Yes, Sir. Eleven.

(d) The Delhi Administration will no doubt consider the claims of all these officers for promotion, when vacancies in higher posts arise.

PROMOTION OF STAFF TO POSTS OF CIRCLE RATIONING OFFICERS, ETC., IN DELHI
RATIONING AND CIVIL SUPPLIES ORGANISATIONS

133. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the policy of Government governing the promotion of the staff to the posts of Circle Rationing Officers and Godown Officers in the Delhi Rationing and Civil Supplies organisations?

(b) Are Government aware that in November, 1944, a post of a Godown Officer was newly created and an outsider was appointed in preference to experienced staff? If so, do Government propose to see that the claims of the existing staff are not overlooked in future?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The policy is to fill up posts by promotion or direct recruitment, both methods being used, with the object of obtaining the best man for each appointment.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The official appointed as godowns officer had previous experience which made him especially suitable for the post.

The second part of the question does not arise.

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Contribution of ration.	39	9-2-45	45	Py-605 (127)
Groundnut and gur purchase	93—94	16-3-45	1046	Py-605 (201)
Gur export	94—95	16-3-45	1065	Py-605 (203)
Monthly ration in Delhi	102	21-3-45	1240	Py-605 (298)
Agency —Vegetable ghee	103	21-3-45	651	Py-605 (200)
Export of potatoes for Farrukhabad.	112	29-3-45	1483	Py-605 (322)
Sale of ice in Delhi —	129—130	12-4-45	1811	Py-605 (347)
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